

EXHIBIT 6, PART 1



US006431983B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Acres

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,431,983 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Aug. 13, 2002**

(54) **METHOD FOR PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO PLAY GAMING DEVICES CONNECTED BY A NETWORK TO A HOST COMPUTER**

(75) **Inventor:** John Acres, Corvallis, OR (US)

(73) **Assignee:** Acres Gaming, Inc., Las Vegas, NV (US)

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

(21) **Appl No.:** 09/832,425

(22) **Filed:** Apr. 10, 2001

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/672,217, filed on Jun 25, 1996, now Pat. No. 6,244,958

(51) **Int. Cl.:** A63F 9/22

(52) **U.S. Cl.:** 463/25; 463/16; 463/42

(58) **Field of Search:** 463/16, 25, 42

(56) References Cited

U S PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,598,964 A	8/1971	Dell	235/61.6
4,072,930 A	2/1978	Lucero et al.	340/152 I
4,230,265 A	10/1980	Casaly	235/455
4,258,838 A	3/1981	Rockola et al.	194/1 R
4,283,709 A	8/1981	Lucero et al.	340/147 R
4,335,809 A	6/1982	Wain	194/1 R
4,467,424 A	8/1984	Hedges et al.	364/412
4,575,622 A	3/1986	Pellegrini	463/25
4,624,459 A	11/1986	Kaufman	273/143 R
4,636,951 A	1/1987	Harlick	463/25
4,652,998 A	3/1987	Koza et al.	364/412
4,669,596 A	6/1987	Capers et al.	194/210
4,669,730 A	6/1987	Small	273/138 A
4,679,143 A	7/1987	Hagiwara	364/412
4,760,247 A	7/1988	Keane et al.	235/454

4,764,666 A	8/1988	Bergeron	235/380
4,775,937 A	10/1988	Bell	364/412
4,805,907 A	2/1989	Hagiwara	273/138 A
4,815,741 A	3/1989	Small	273/138 A
4,837,728 A	6/1989	Barrie et al.	364/412
4,839,640 A	6/1989	Ozer et al.	340/825 31

(List continued on next page.)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

AU	B-27572/84	11/1984
AU	B-53370/86	10/1989
AU	B-20986/62	1/1993
AU	B-104488/92	3/1994
AU	B-71194/91	5/1994
AU	A-21618/95	1/1996
AU	A-48323/97	6/1998
GB	2 211 975 A	7/1989
WO	WO 94/12256	6/1994
WO	WO 95/22811	8/1995
WO	WO 98/35309	8/1998
WO	WO 98/40140	9/1998

Primary Examiner—Valencia Martin-Wallace

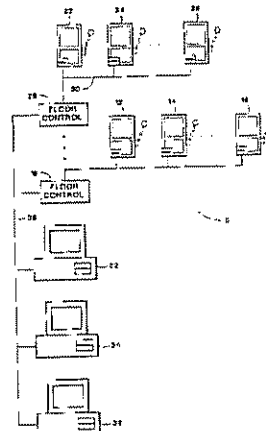
Assistant Examiner—Carmen D. White

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Marger Johnson & McCollom, PC

(57) ABSTRACT

A method for providing incentive to players of networked slot machines includes a card reader associated with each machine and a card associated with each player. A player account accessible by a host computer on the network is created which associates the player's card with the account. A predetermined credit is applied to the player's account. In a complementary incentive, credit from the player's account is applied to the coin-in meter of a slot machine responsive to insertion of the player card into a card reader associated with the machine. In a matching incentive also implemented by the present invention, each time the player inserts a coin into the slot machine, an equal credit is debited from the player's account and applied to the coin-in meter of the machine. In both cases, the credit can only be used by the player to play the machines and cannot be cashed out.

27 Claims, 34 Drawing Sheets



US 6,431,983 B2

Page 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,856,787 A	8/1989	Itkis	273/237	5,477,040 A	12/1995	Lalonde	235/380
4,880,237 A	* 11/1989	Kishishita	463/25	5,494,287 A	2/1996	Manz	273/143
4,882,473 A	11/1989	Bergeron et al	235/380	5,533,727 A	7/1996	DeMar	463/23
4,926,996 A	5/1990	Eglise et al	194/212	5,536,016 A	7/1996	Thompson	273/269
4,964,638 A	10/1990	Ishida	273/138 A	5,550,359 A	8/1996	Bennett	
4,991,848 A	2/1991	Greenwood et al	273/143 R	5,551,692 A	9/1996	Pettit et al	
5,038,022 A	8/1991	Lucero	235/380	5,559,312 A	* 9/1996	Lucero	463/25
5,042,810 A	8/1991	Williams	273/142	5,577,959 A	* 11/1996	Takemoto et al	463/25
5,096,195 A	3/1992	Gimmon	273/138 A	5,580,309 A	12/1996	Piechowiak	463/16
5,103,081 A	4/1992	Fisher et al	235/464	5,580,310 A	12/1996	Orus et al	763/16
5,116,055 A	5/1992	Tracy	273/138 A	5,586,936 A	12/1996	Bennett	463/25
5,123,649 A	6/1992	Iiberio	273/143 R	5,586,937 A	12/1996	Menashe	463/41
5,135,224 A	* 8/1992	Yamamoto et al	273/143 R	5,611,730 A	3/1997	Weiss	463/20
5,159,549 A	* 10/1992	Hallman, Jr et al	463/42	5,655,961 A	8/1997	Acres et al	463/27
5,179,517 A	* 1/1993	Sarbin et al	463/25	5,674,128 A	10/1997	Holch et al	463/42
5,197,094 A	* 3/1993	Tillery et al	379/91	5,702,304 A	12/1997	Acres et al	463/29
5,217,224 A	6/1993	Sincock		5,741,183 A	4/1998	Acres et al	463/42
5,249,800 A	10/1993	Hilgendorf et al	273/138 A	5,743,523 A	4/1998	Kelly et al	273/138.1
5,257,179 A	10/1993	DeMar	364/410	5,752,882 A	5/1998	Acres et al	463/42
5,265,874 A	* 11/1993	Dickinson et al	463/42	5,758,875 A	6/1998	Giacalone, Jr	273/143 R
5,280,909 A	1/1994	Tracy	273/138 A	5,761,647 A	* 6/1998	Boushy	705/10
5,286,023 A	2/1994	Wood	273/138 A	5,770,533 A	* 6/1998	Franchi	463/25
5,287,269 A	* 2/1994	Dorrough et al	463/25	5,811,772 A	9/1998	Lucero	235/380
5,290,033 A	* 3/1994	Bittner et al	273/138 A	5,816,917 A	10/1998	Kelmer et al	463/16
5,292,127 A	3/1994	Kelly et al	273/138 R	5,816,918 A	10/1998	Kelly et al	463/16
5,321,241 A	* 6/1994	Craine	463/25	5,820,459 A	10/1998	Acres et al	463/25
5,326,104 A	7/1994	Pease et al	273/138 A	5,833,540 A	11/1998	Miodunski et al	463/42
5,344,144 A	9/1994	Canon	273/138 A	5,836,817 A	11/1998	Acres et al	463/26
5,345,379 A	9/1994	Brous et al	364/146	5,839,956 A	11/1998	Takemoto	463/25
5,370,306 A	12/1994	Schulze et al	273/138 A	5,854,542 A	12/1998	Forbes	315/291
5,371,345 A	12/1994	LeStrange et al	235/380	5,902,983 A	5/1999	Crevelt et al	235/380
5,429,361 A	* 7/1995	Raven et al	463/29	5,919,091 A	7/1999	Bell et al	463/25
5,470,079 A	* 11/1995	LeStrange et al	463/42	6,048,269 A	4/2000	Burns et al	462/25
5,472,194 A	* 12/1995	Breeding et al	463/29	6,244,958 B1	6/2001	Acres	
5,473,144 A	12/1995	Mathurin, Jr	235/380				

* cited by examiner

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 1 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

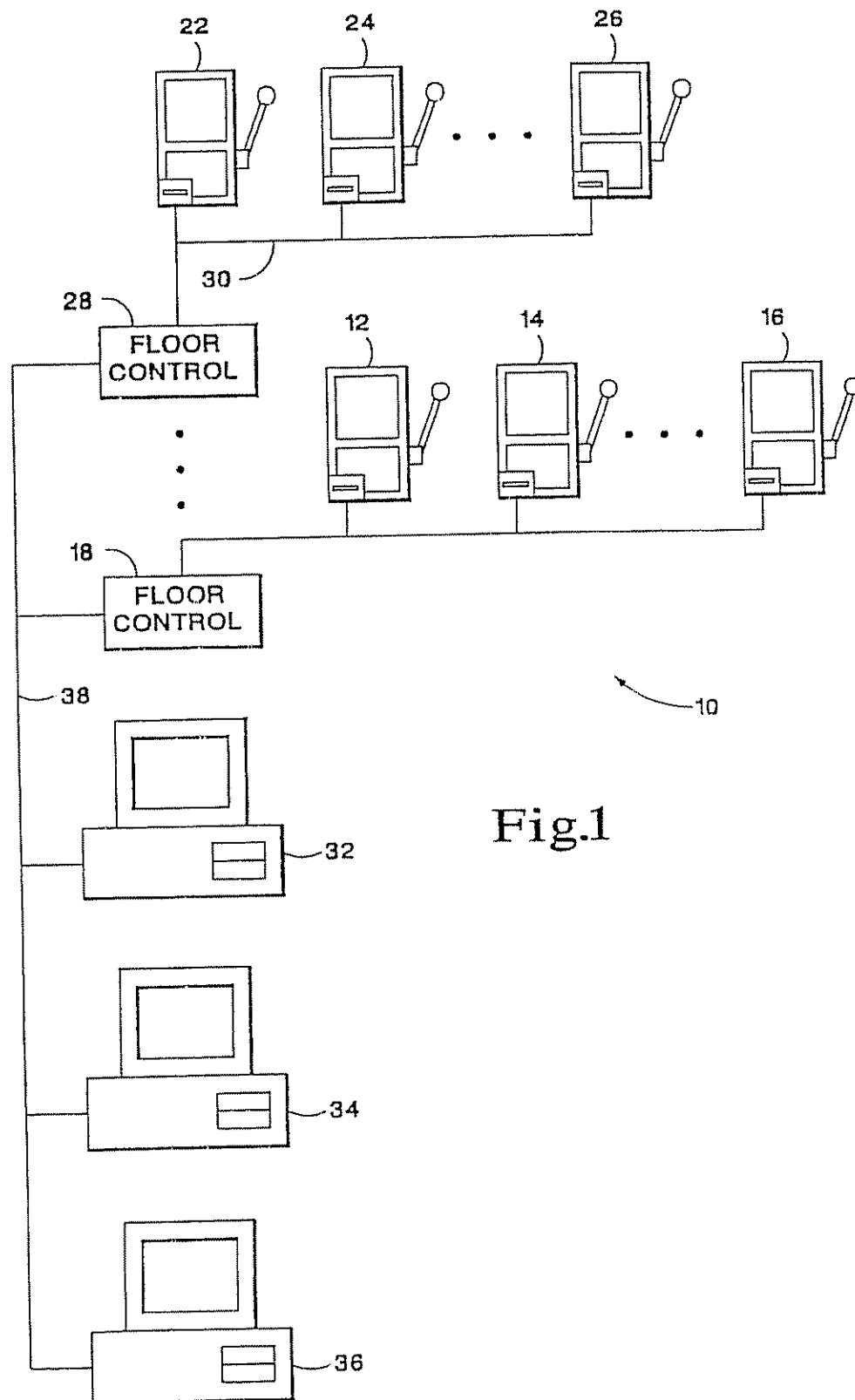


Fig.1

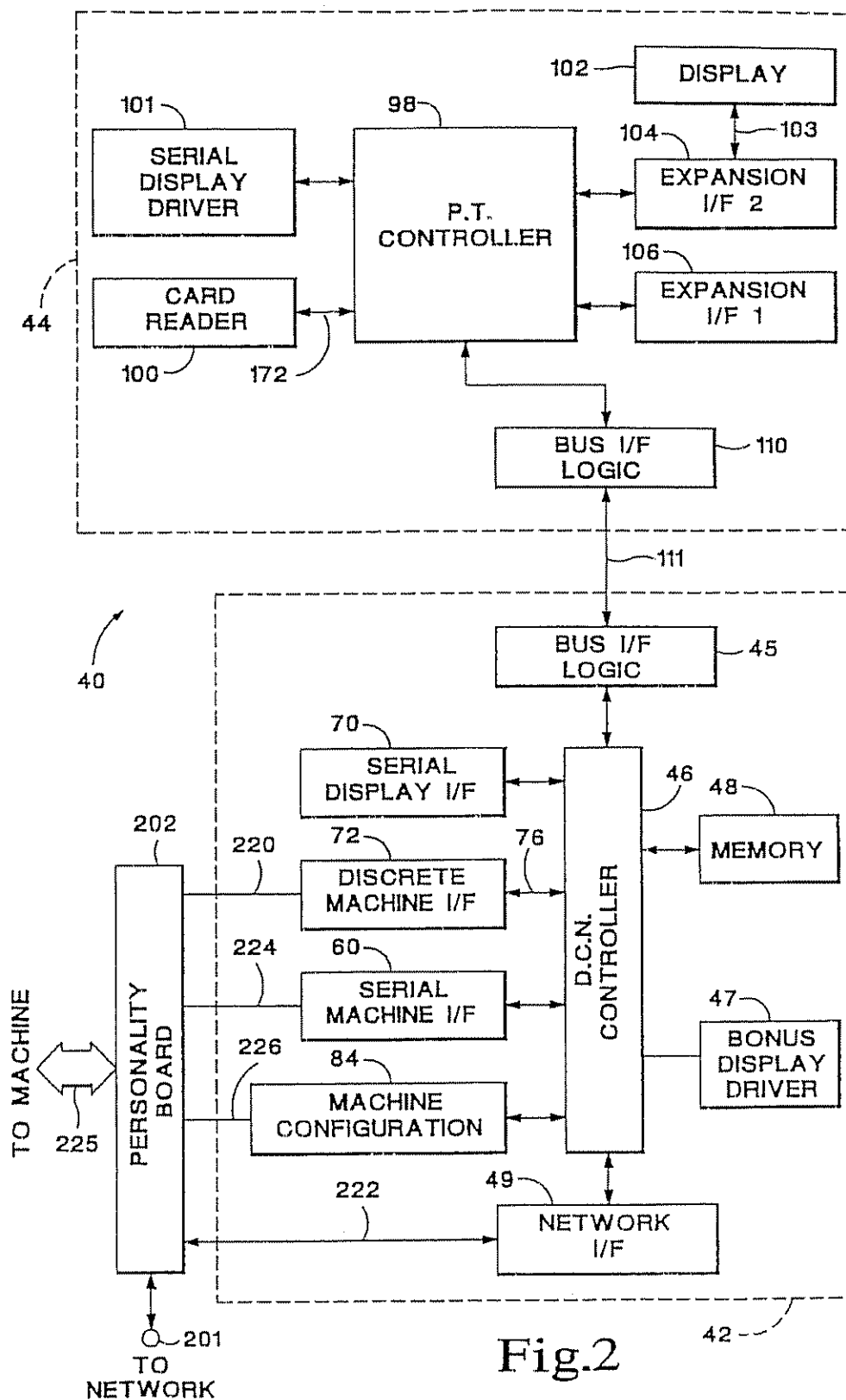
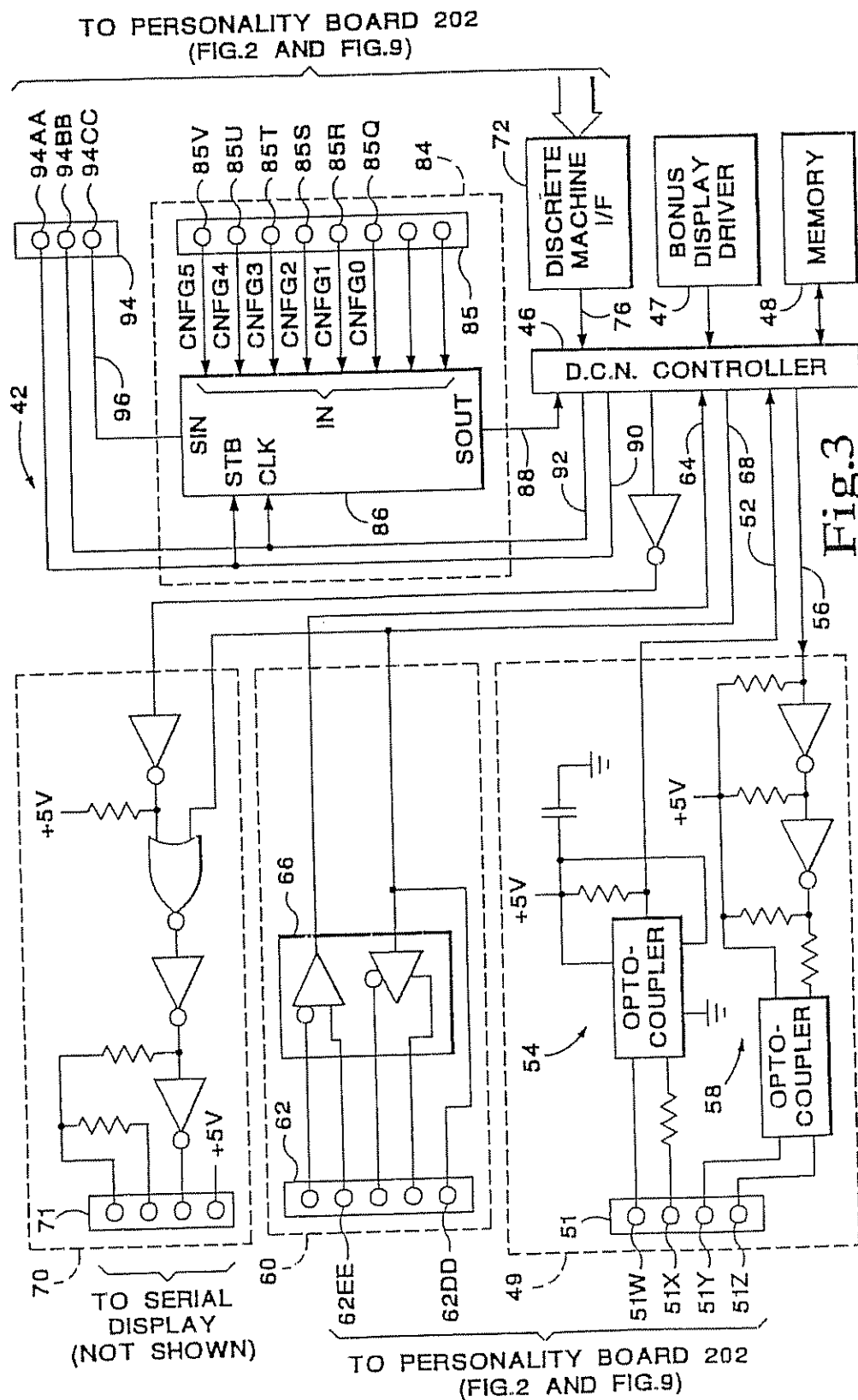
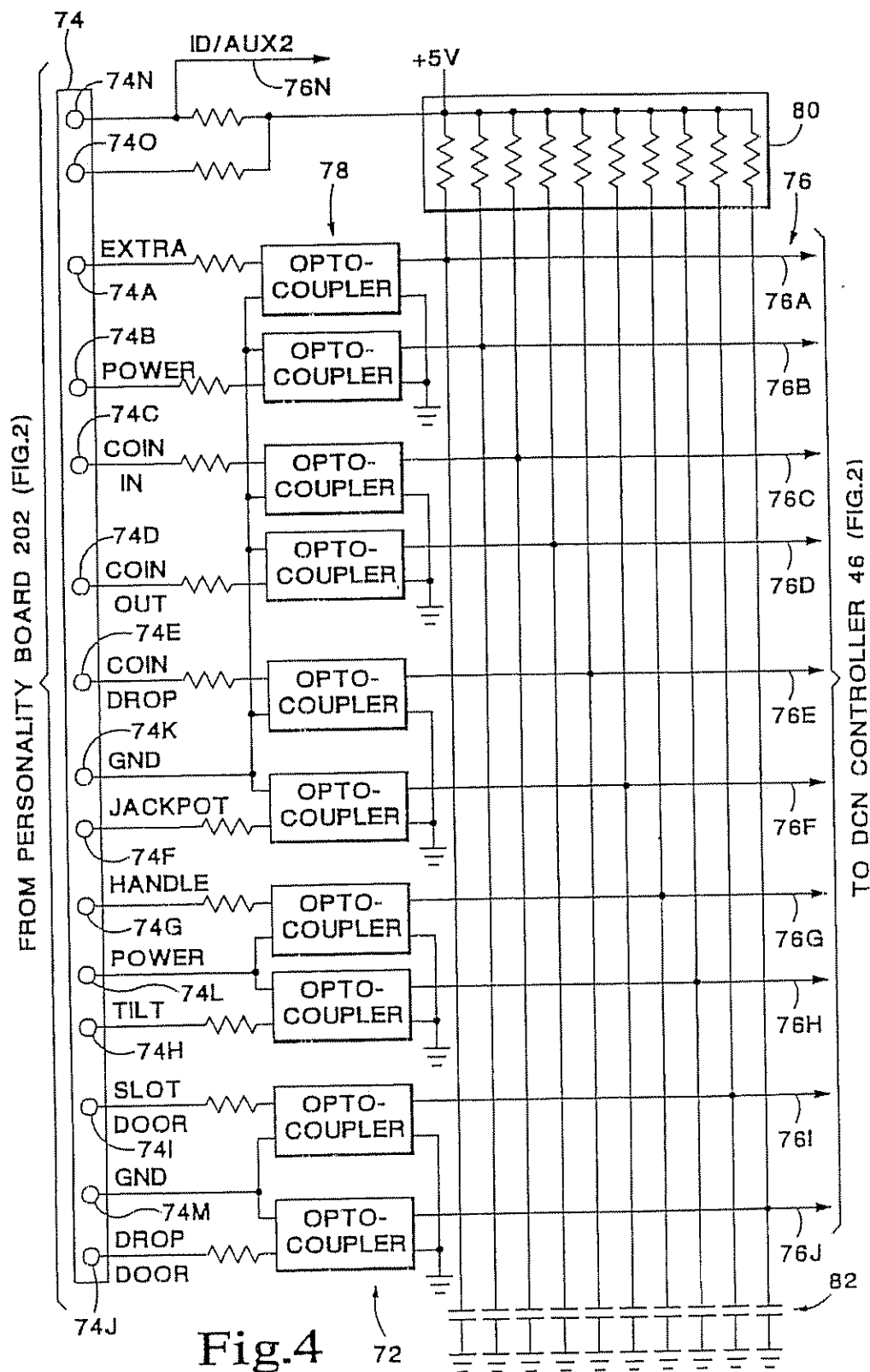


Fig.2





U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 5 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

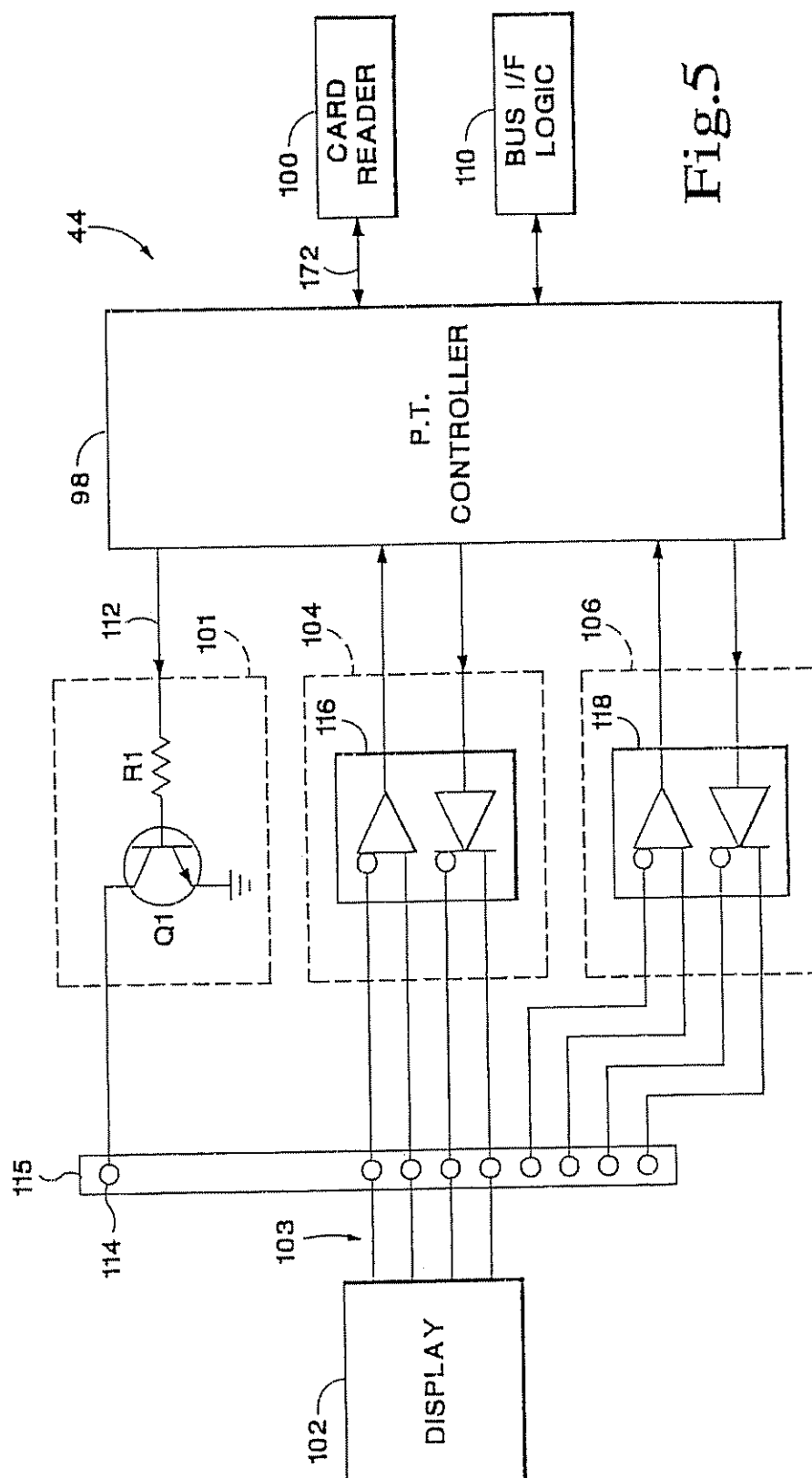
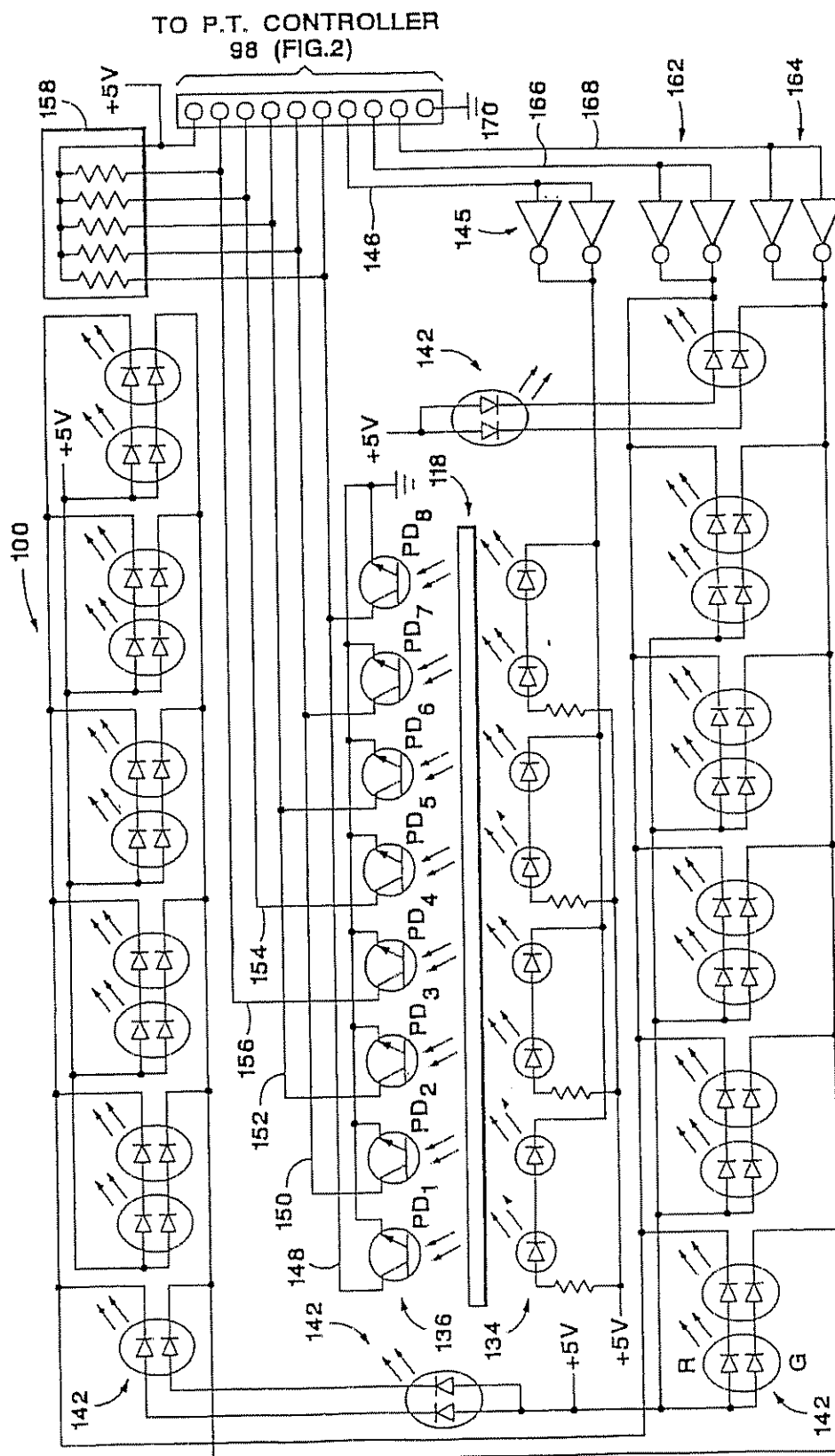


Fig. 5



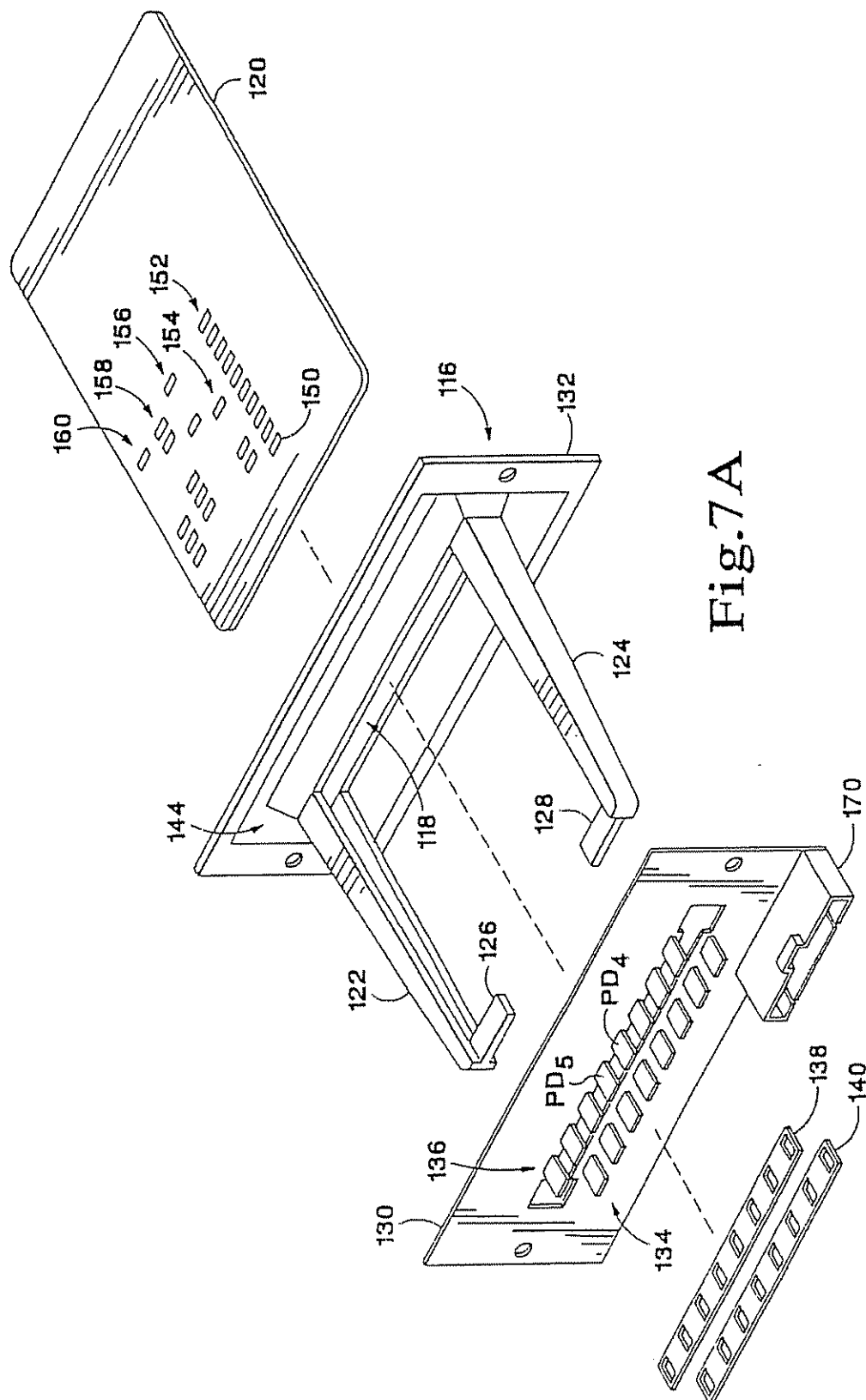
9.0.0

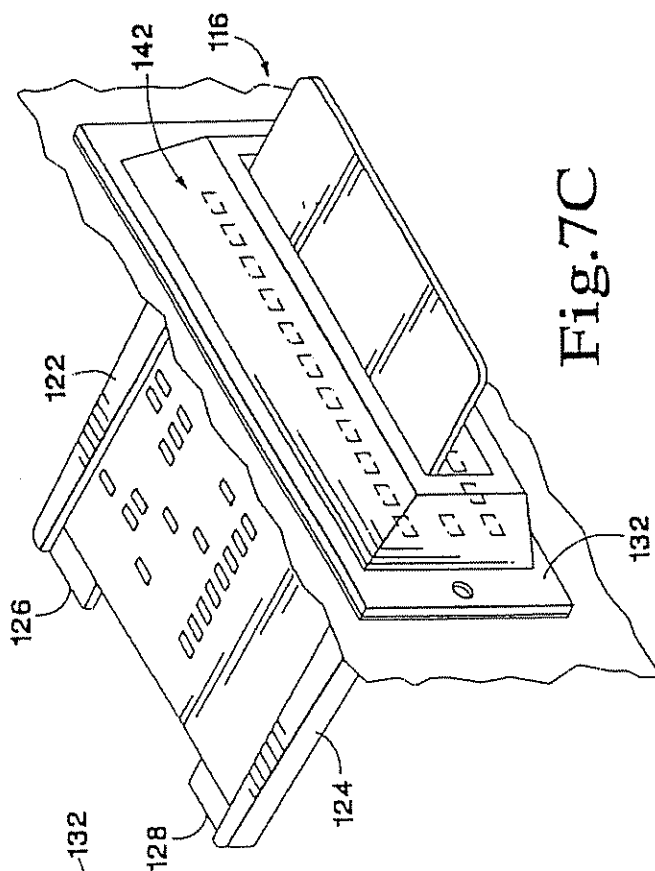
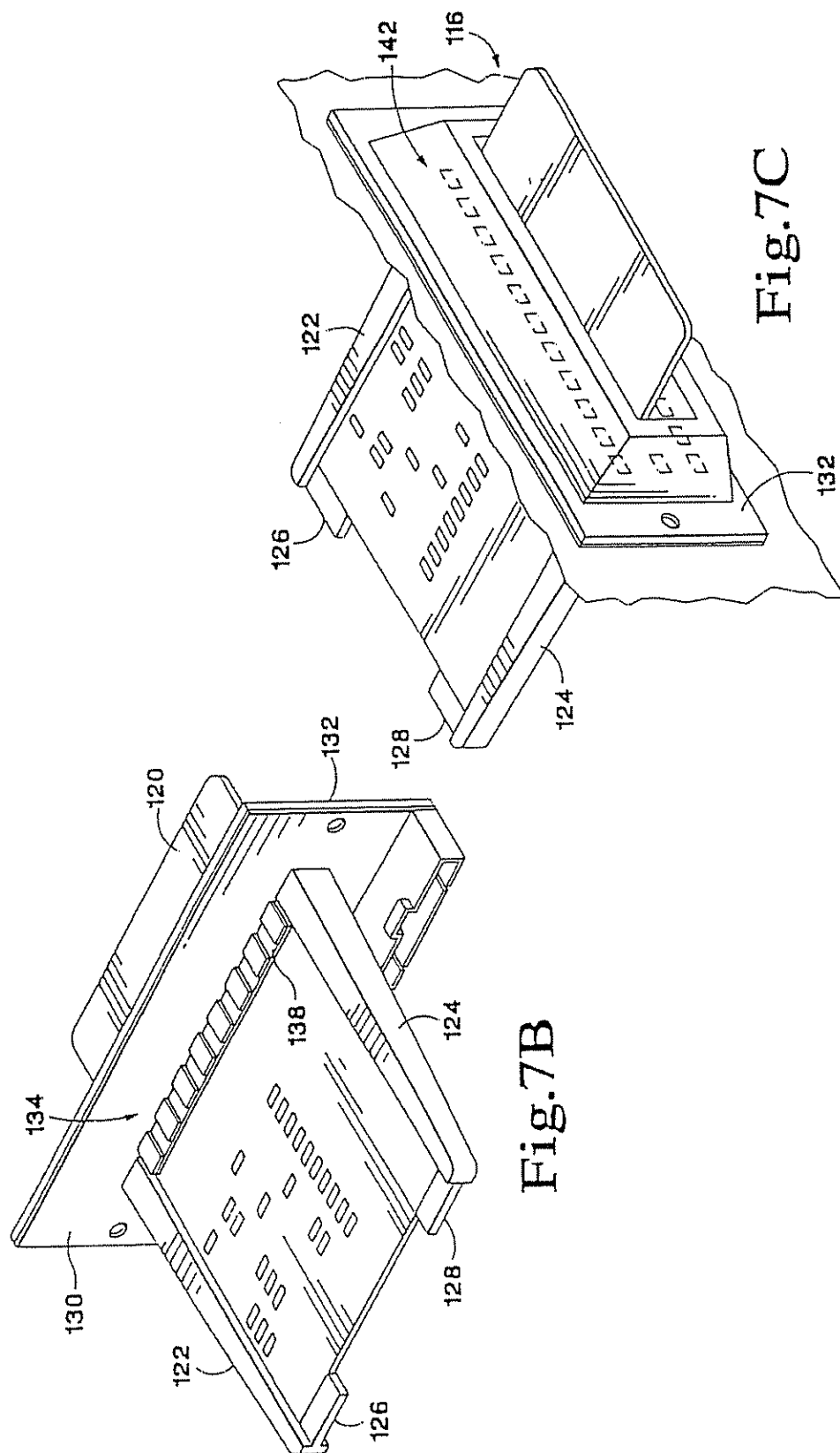
U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 7 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2





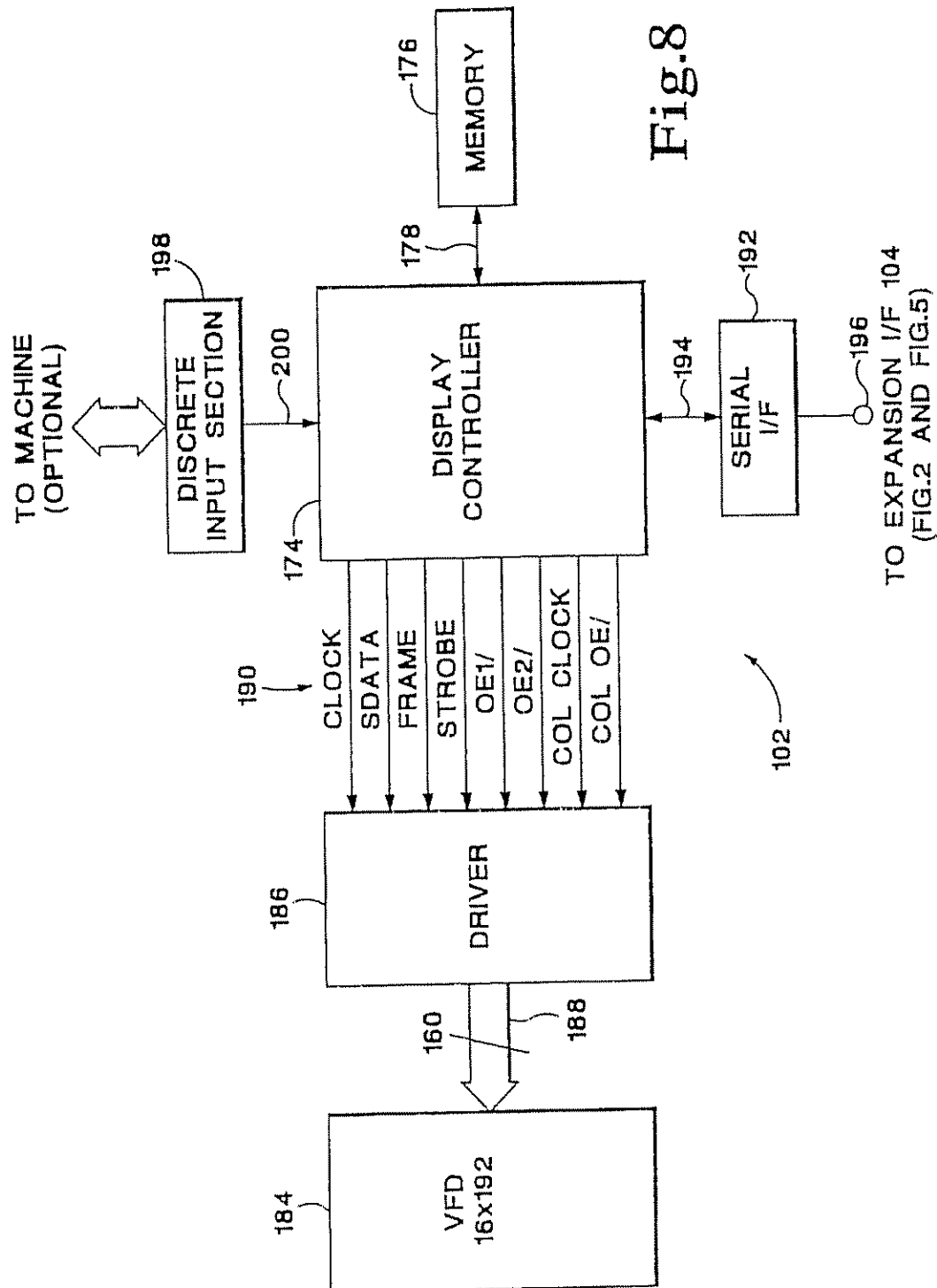


Fig.8

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 10 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

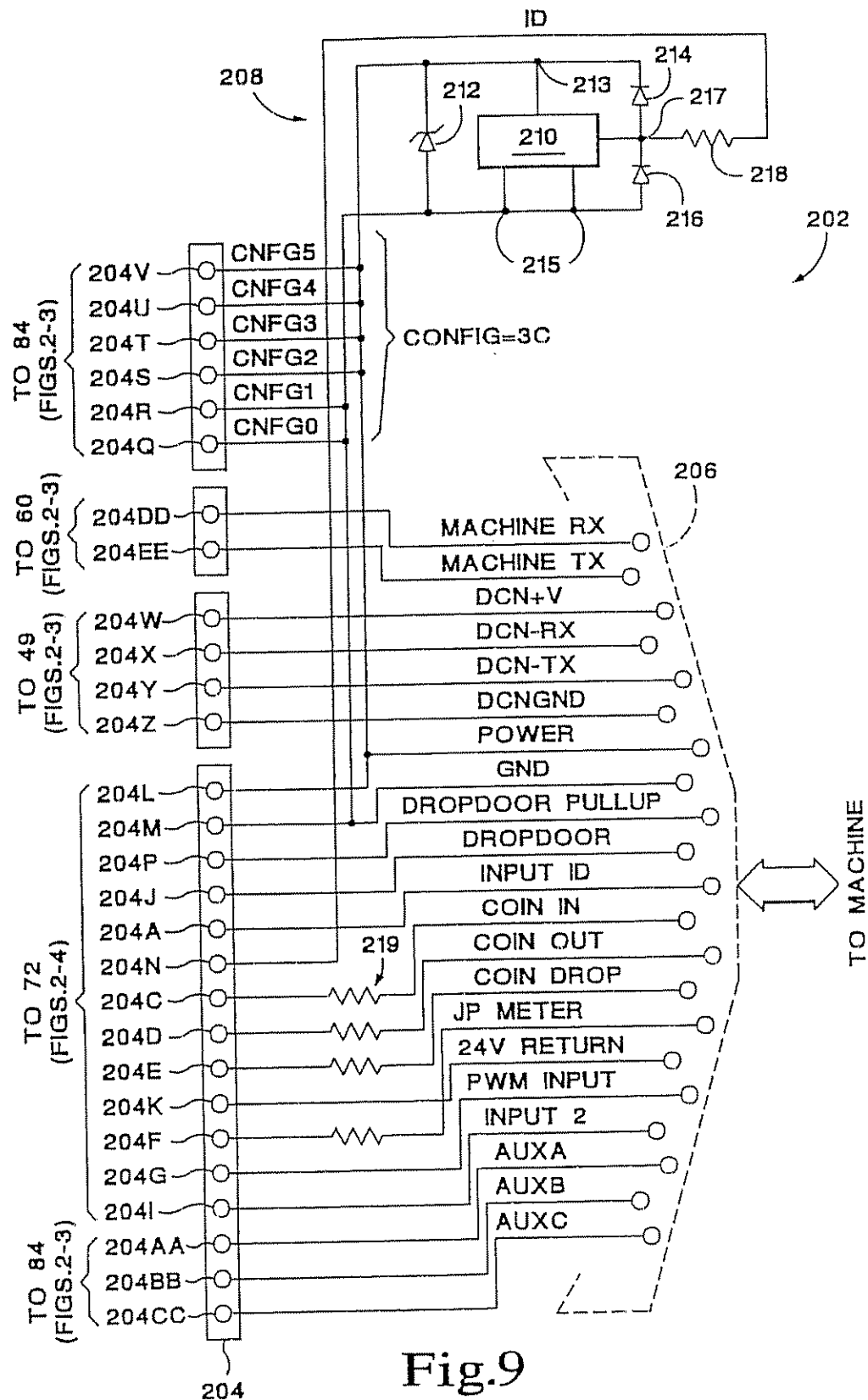


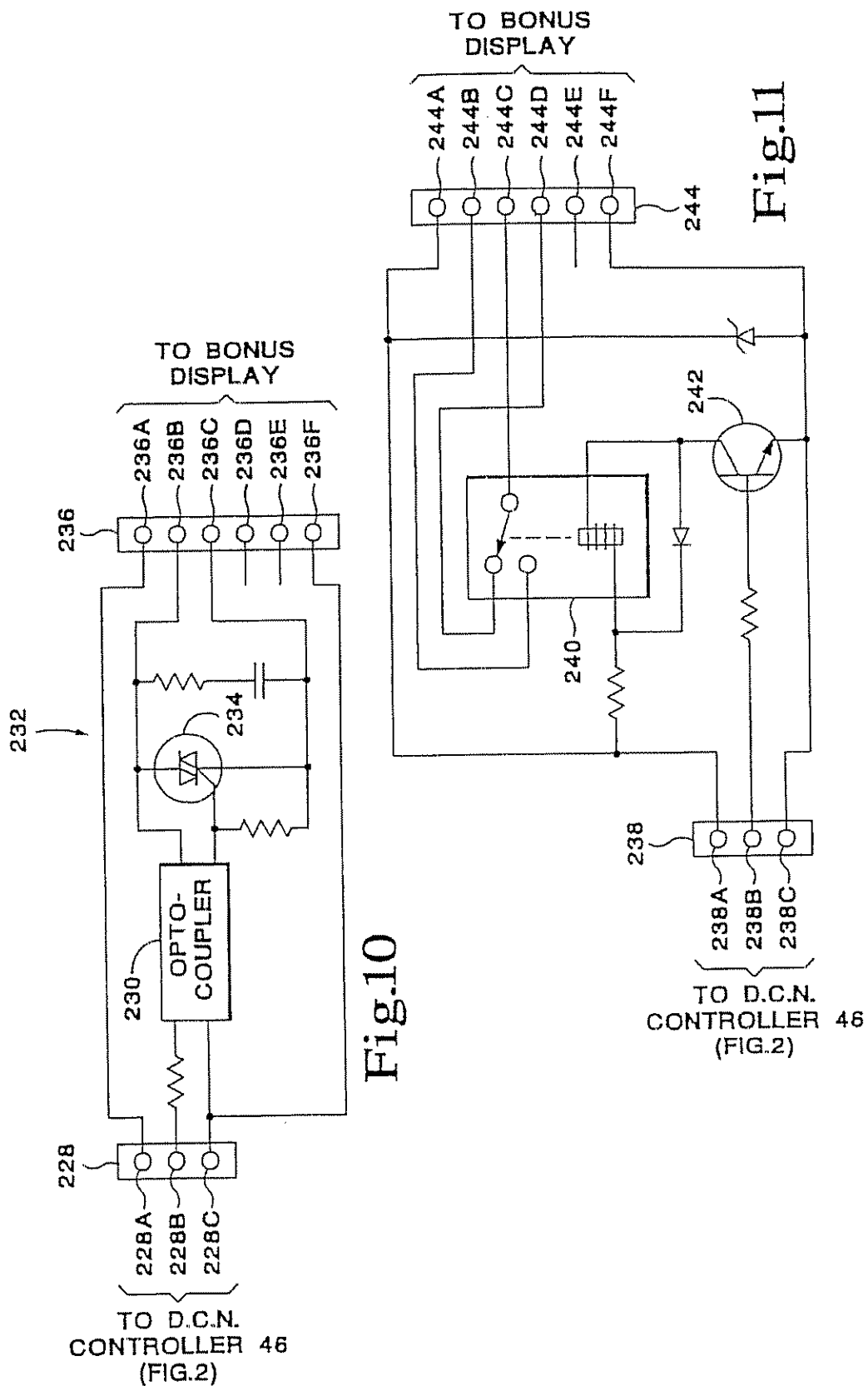
Fig.9

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 11 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

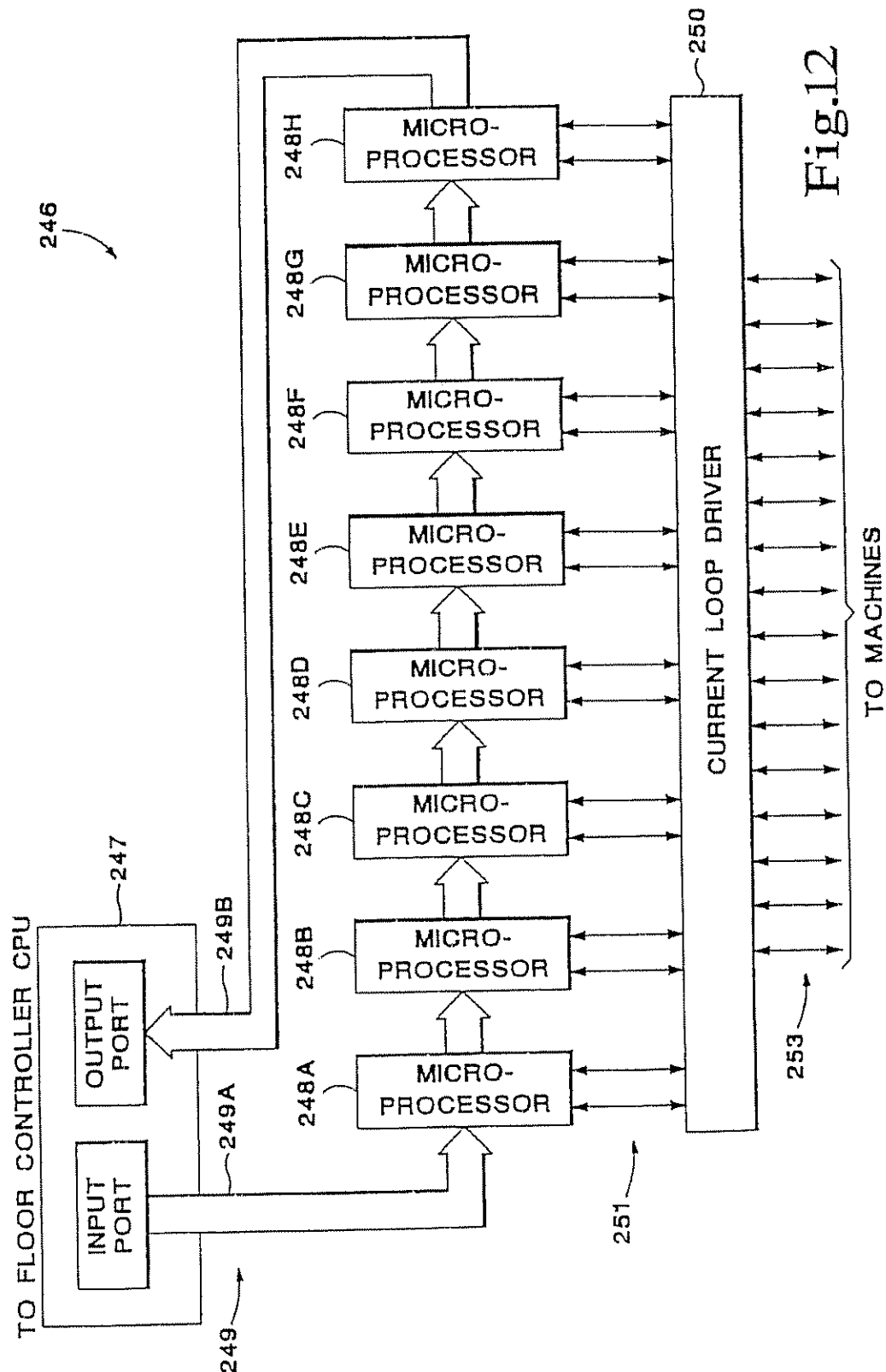


U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 12 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2



U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 13 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

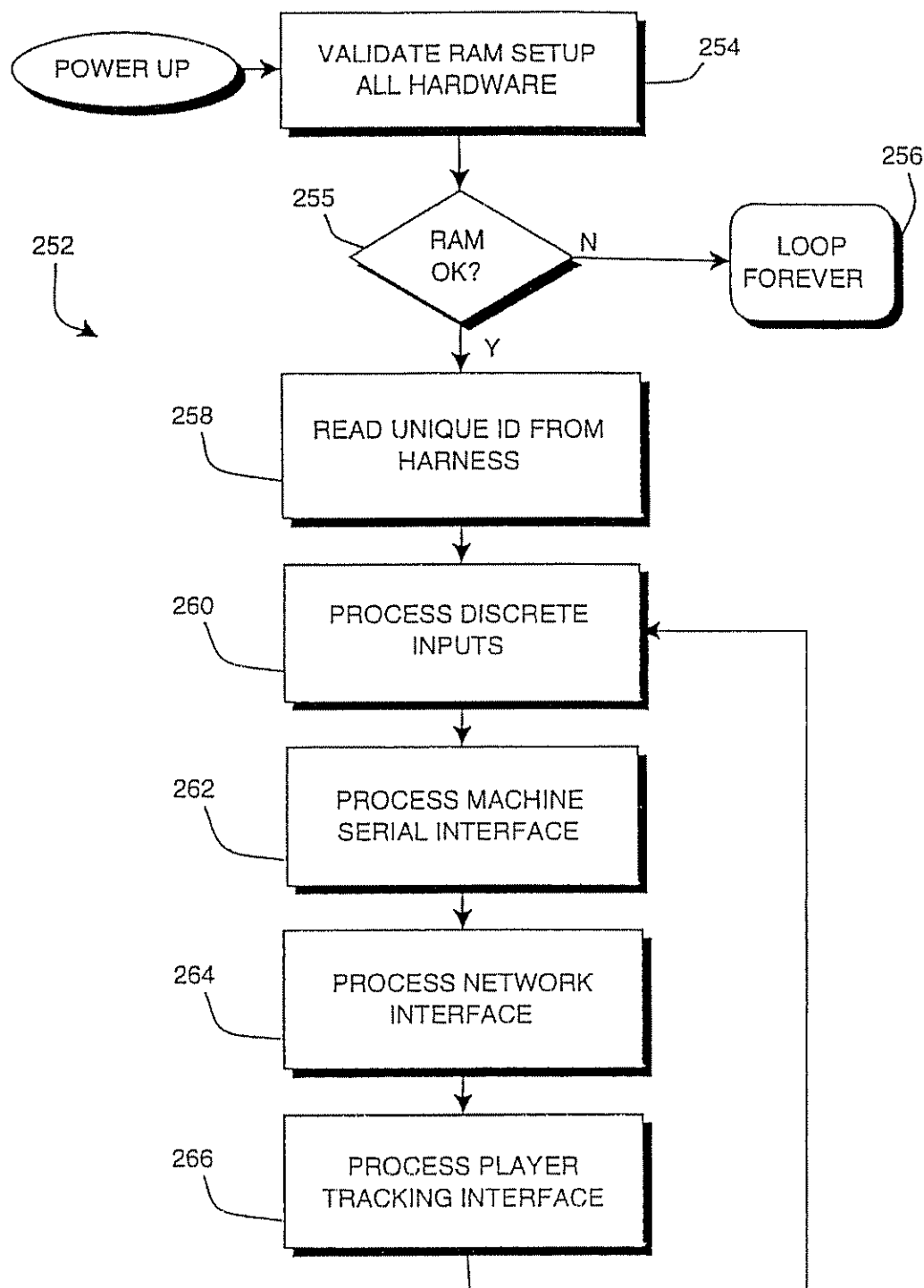


Fig.13

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 14 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

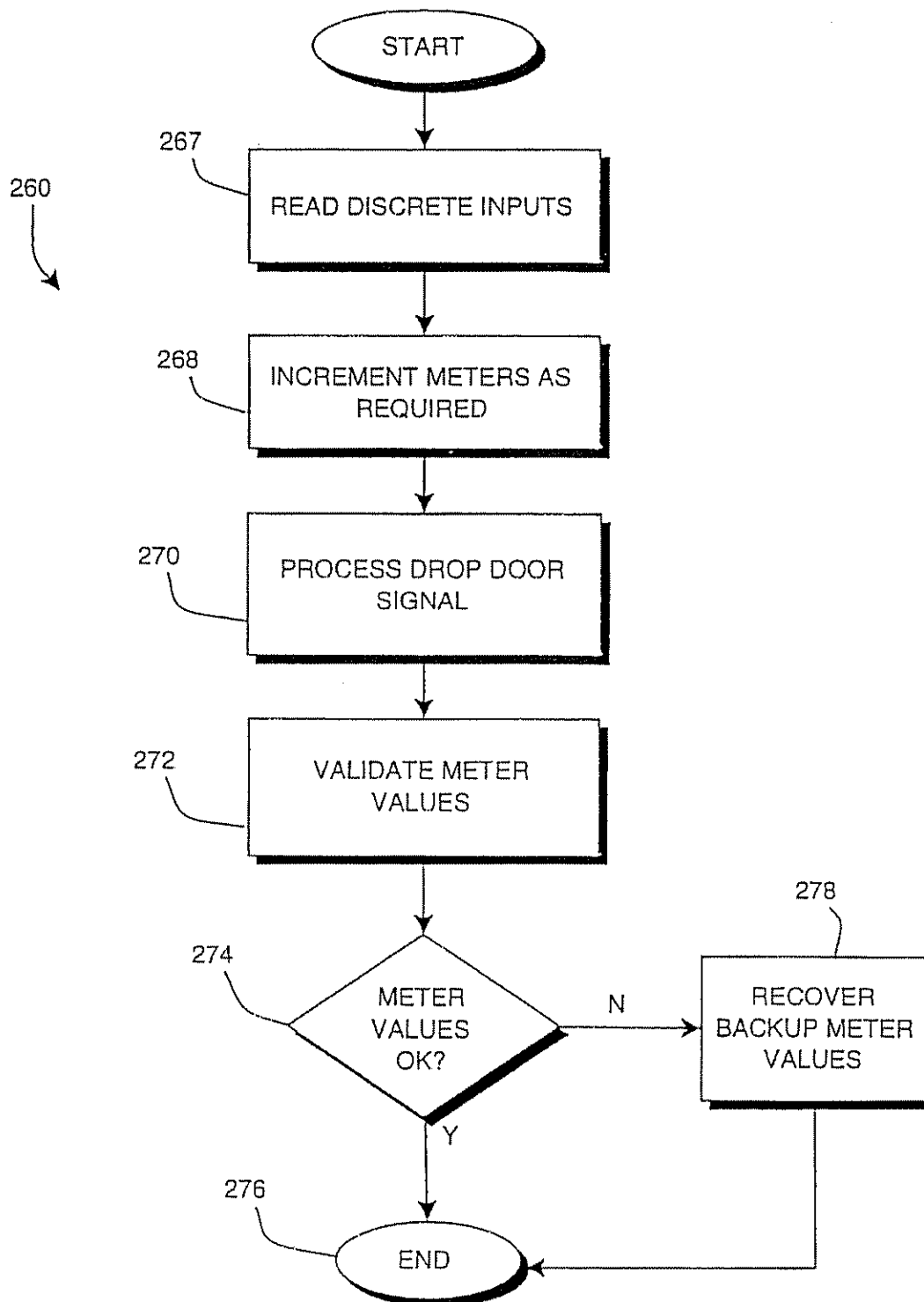


Fig.14

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 15 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

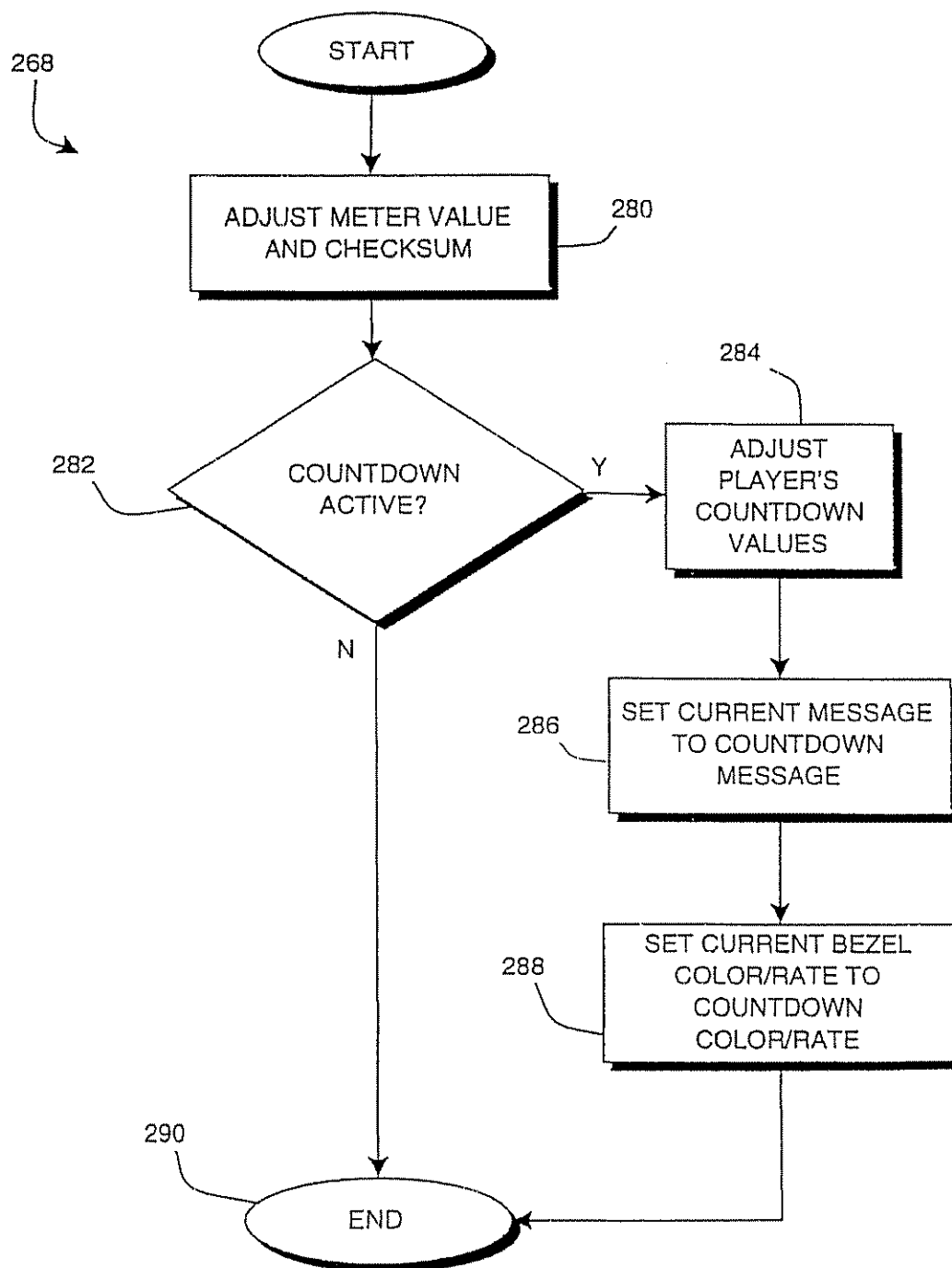


Fig.15

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 16 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

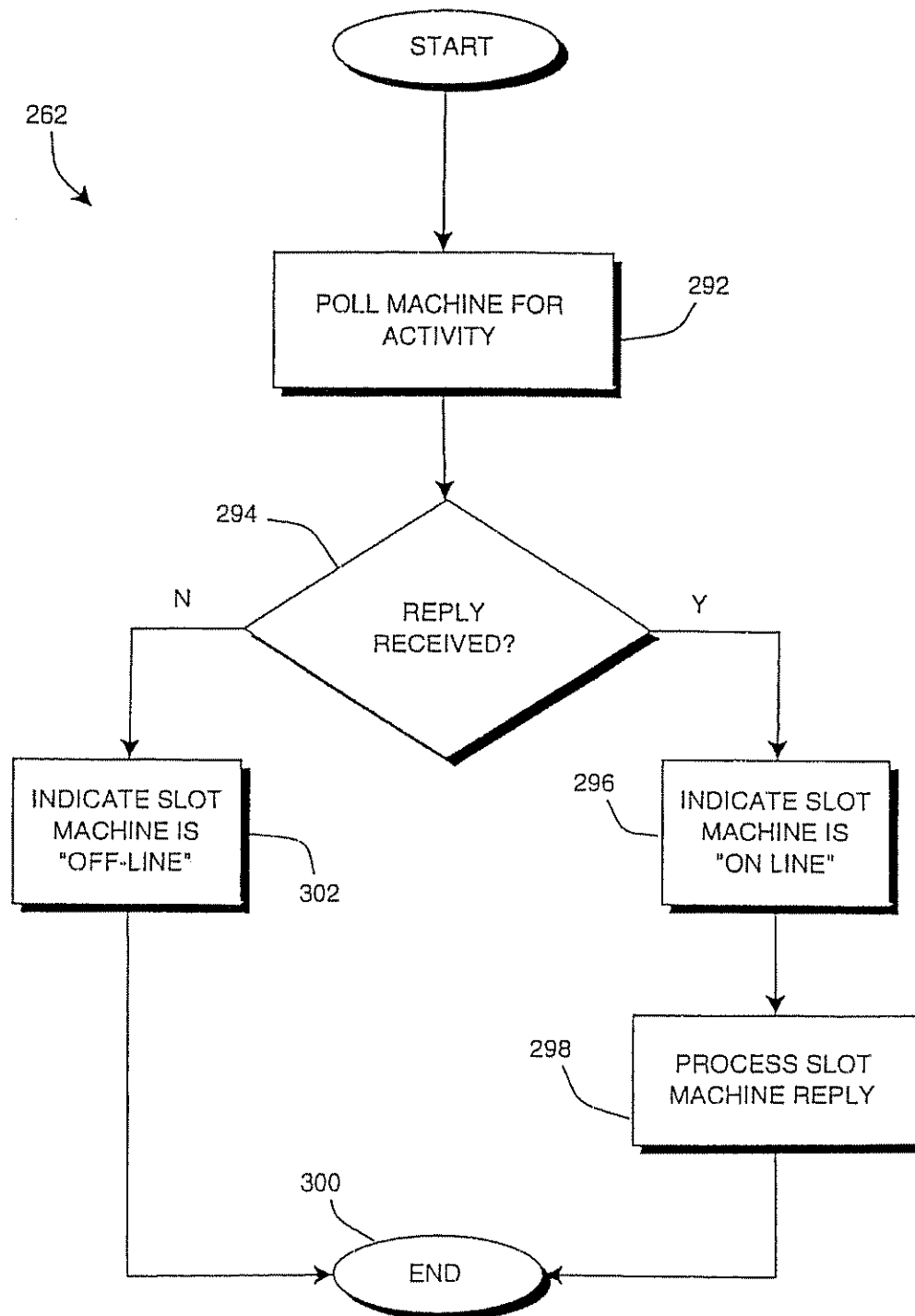


Fig.16

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 17 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

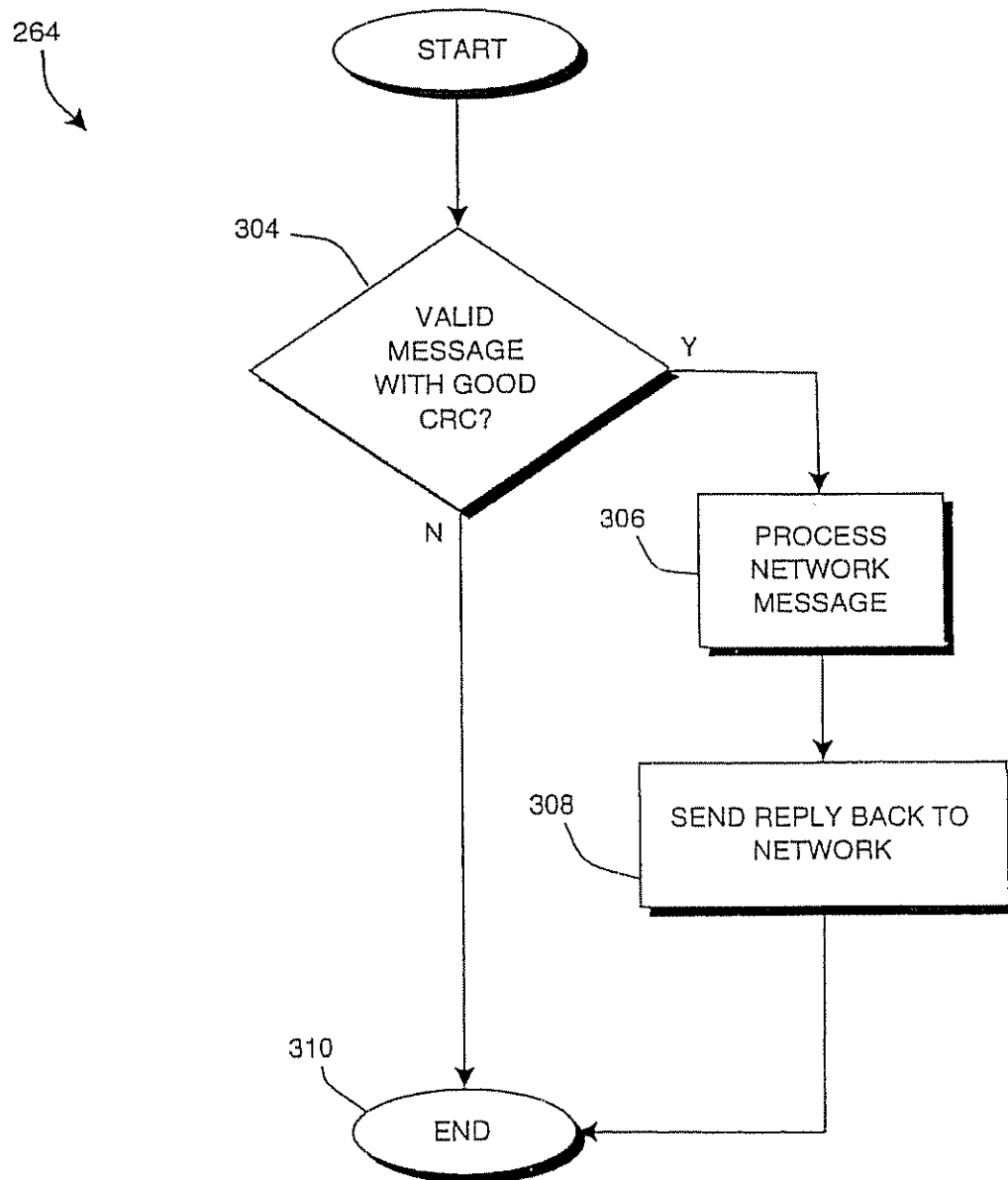


Fig.17

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 18 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

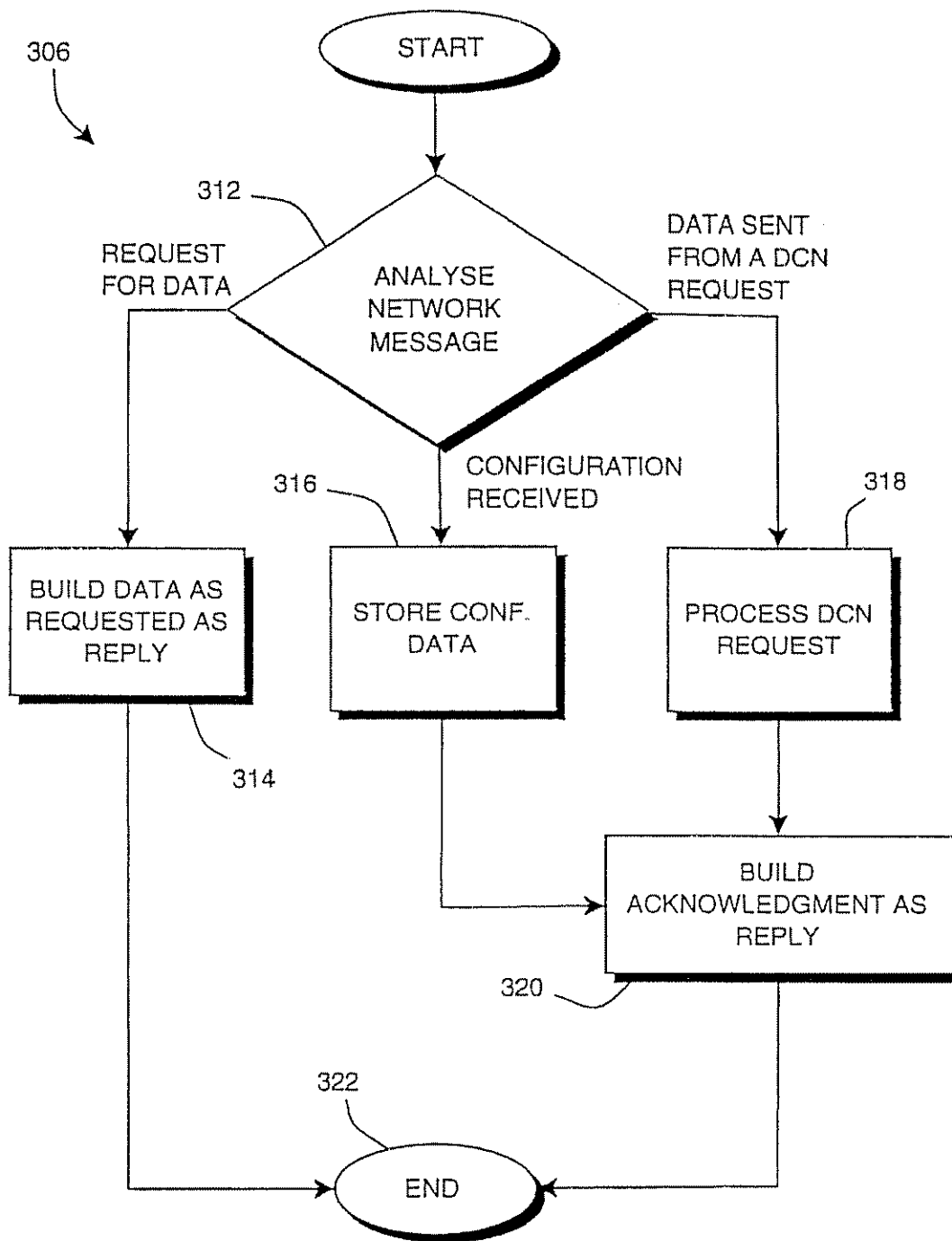


Fig.18

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 19 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

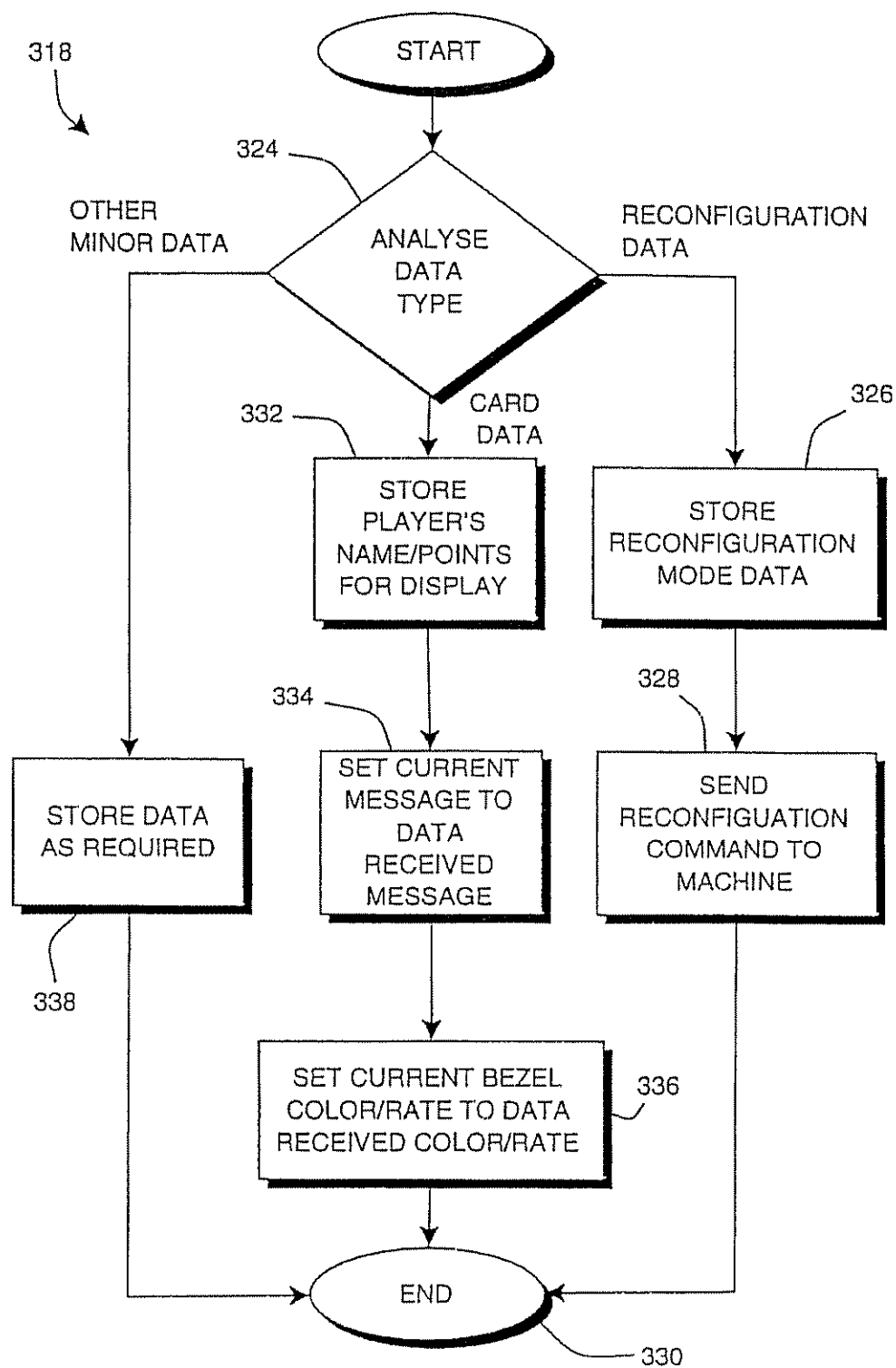


Fig.19

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 20 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

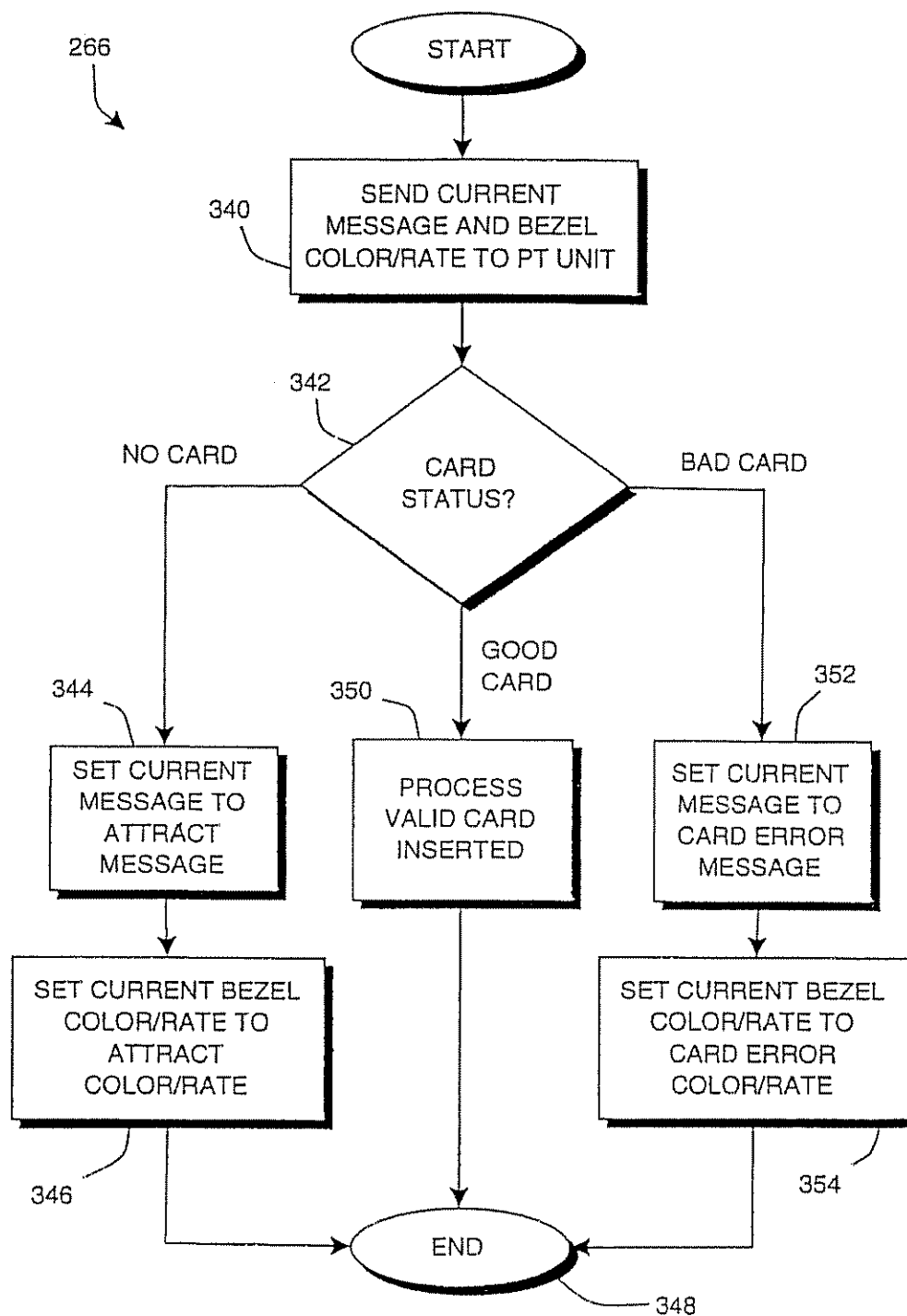


Fig.20

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 21 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

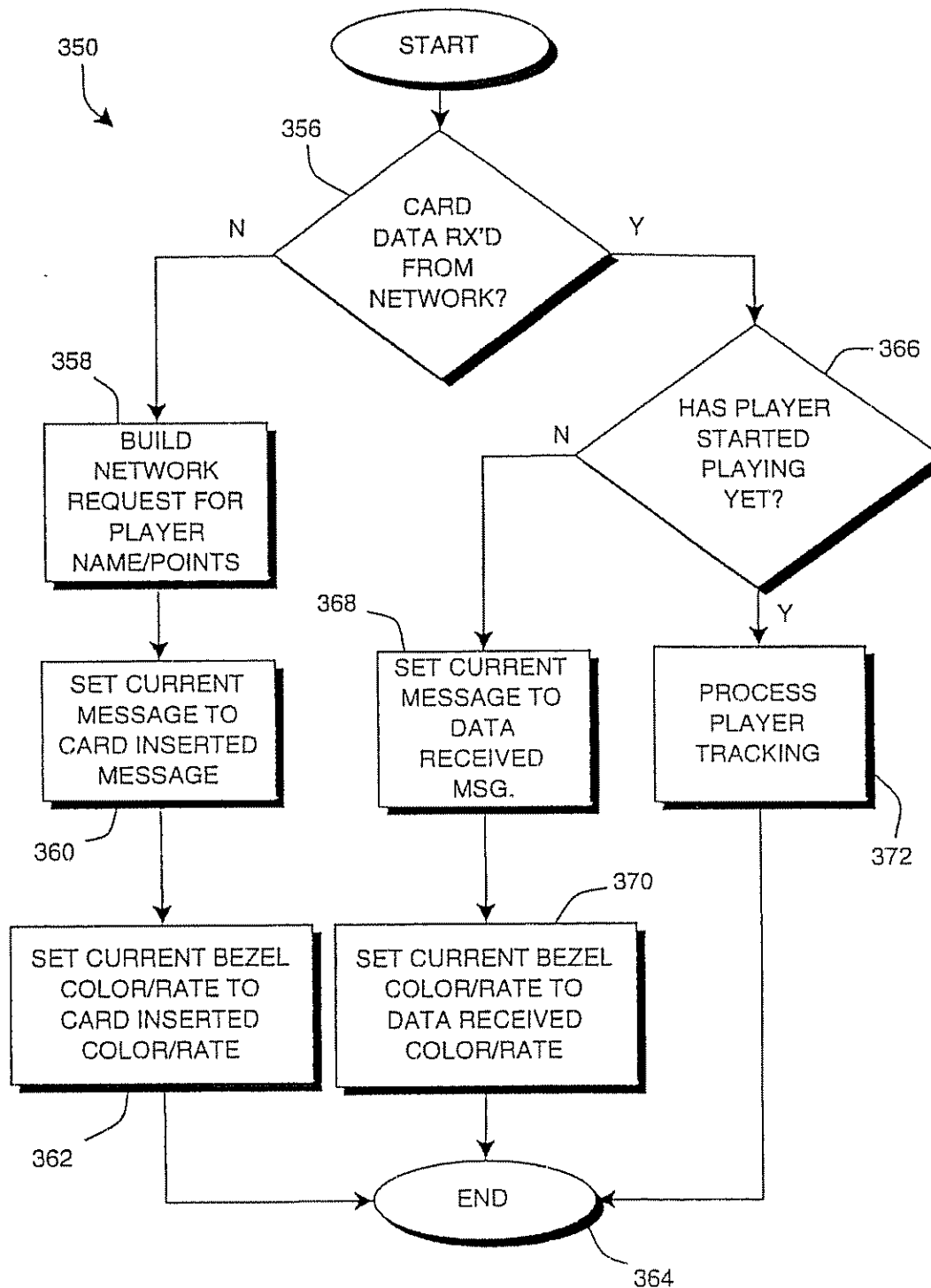


Fig.21

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 22 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

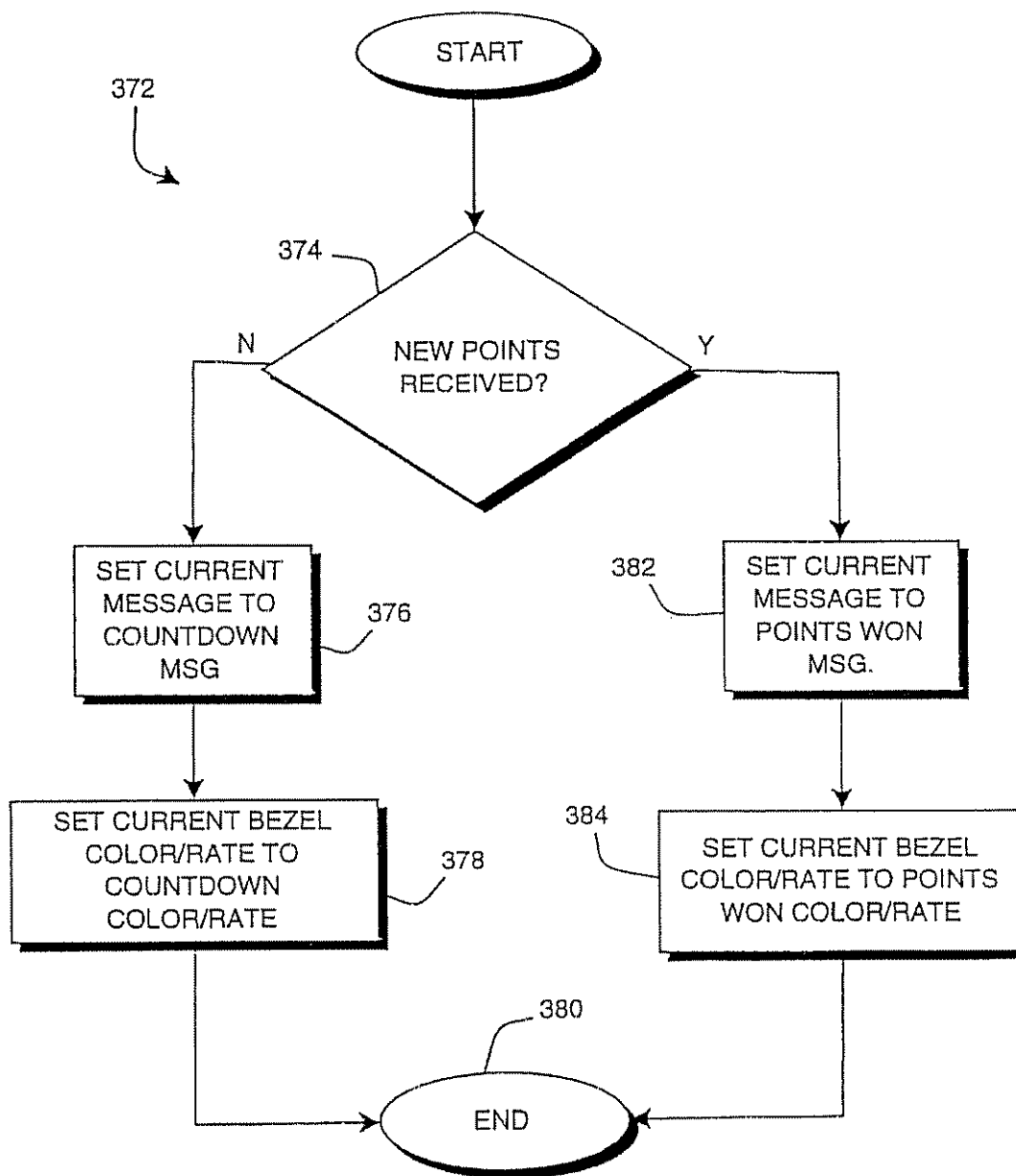


Fig.22

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 23 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

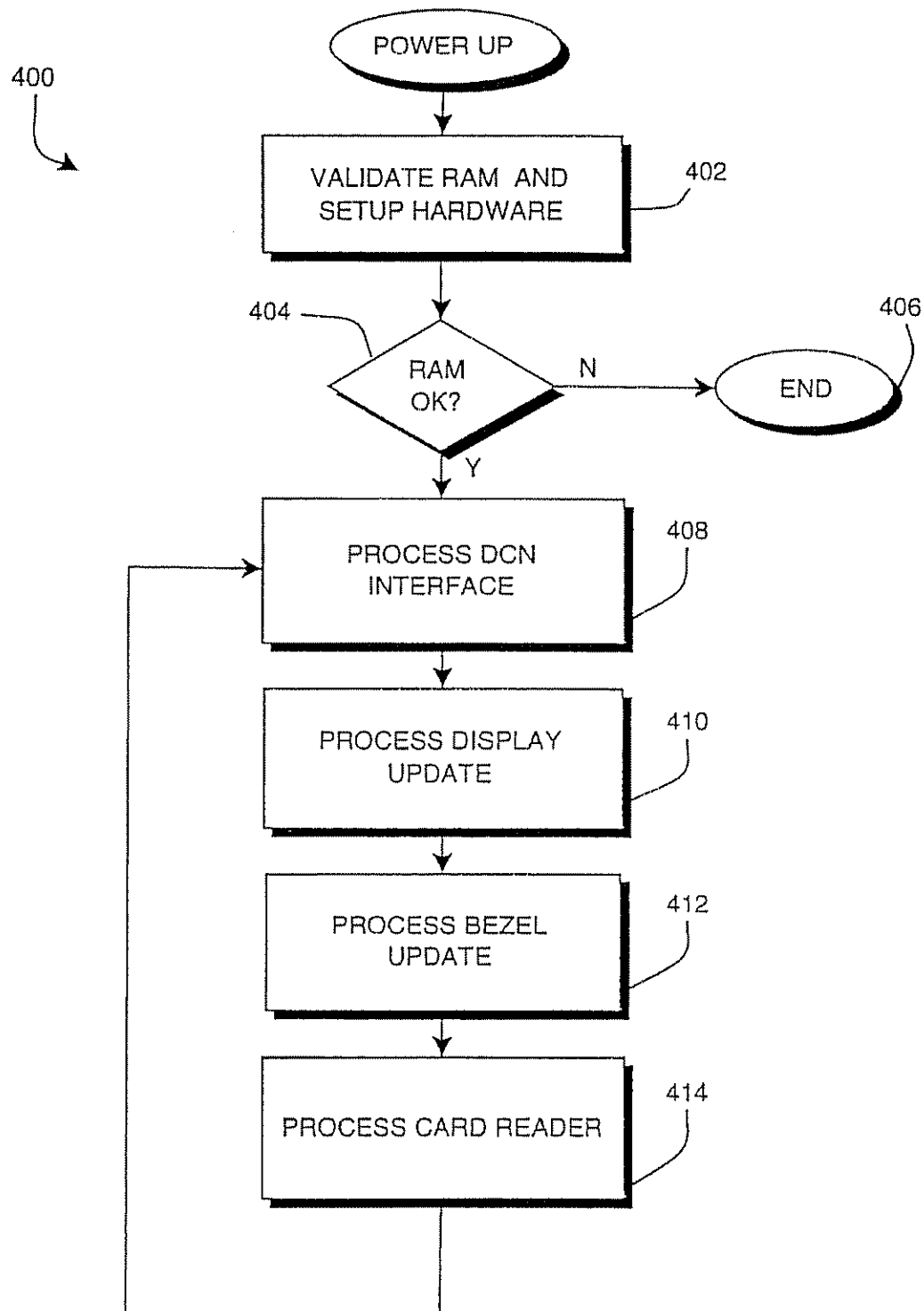


Fig.23

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 24 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

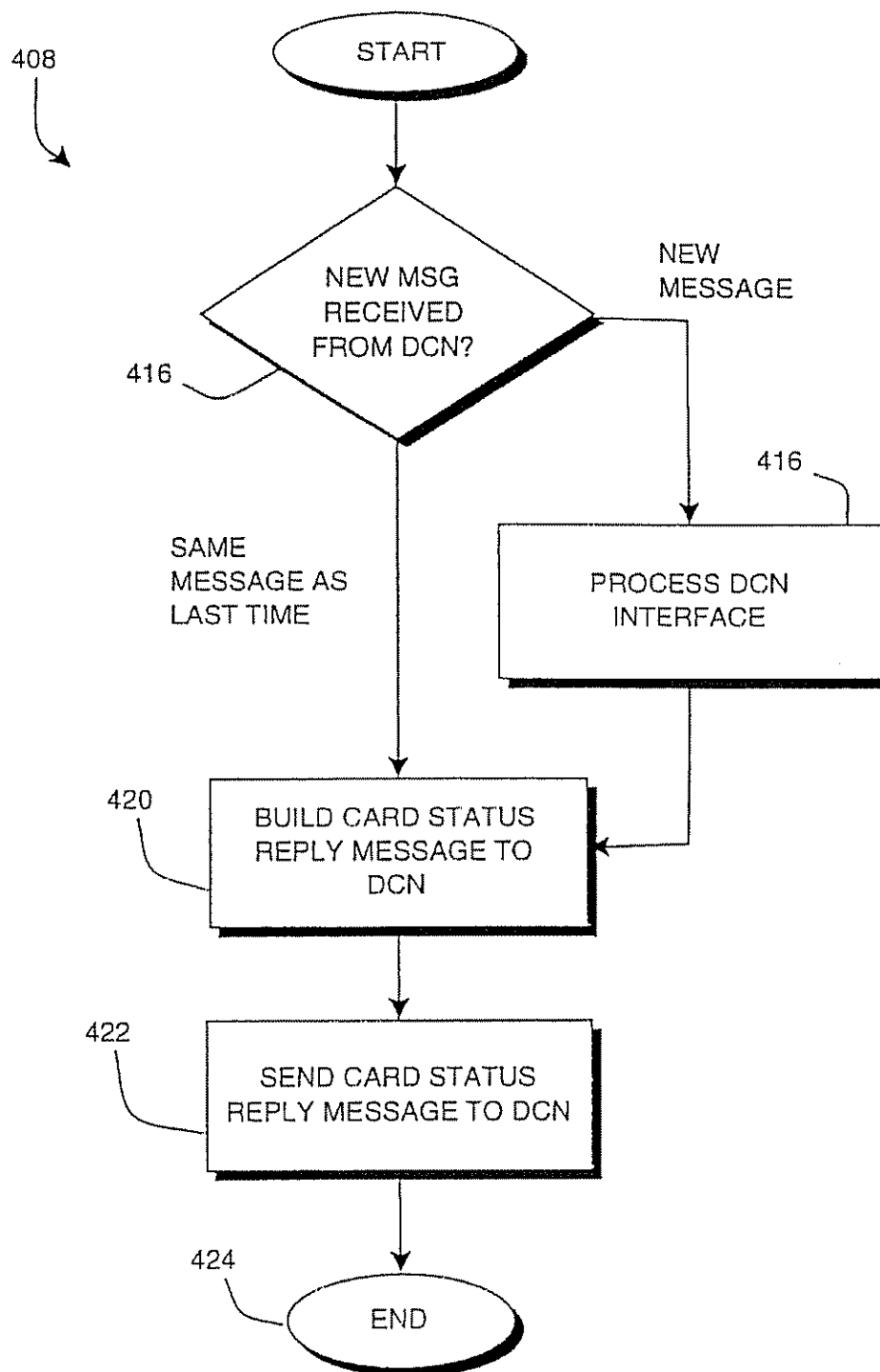


Fig.24

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 25 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

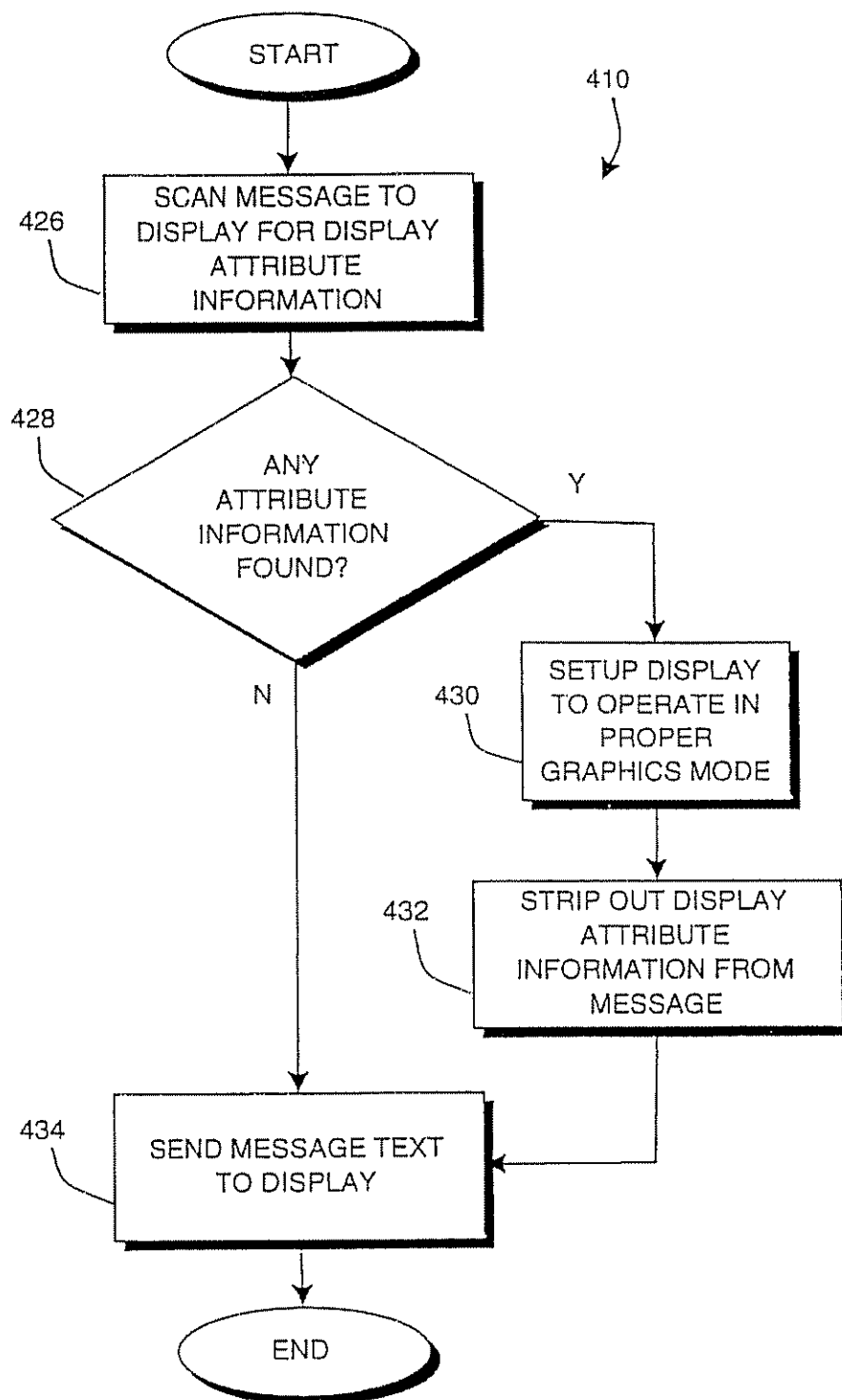


Fig.25

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 26 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

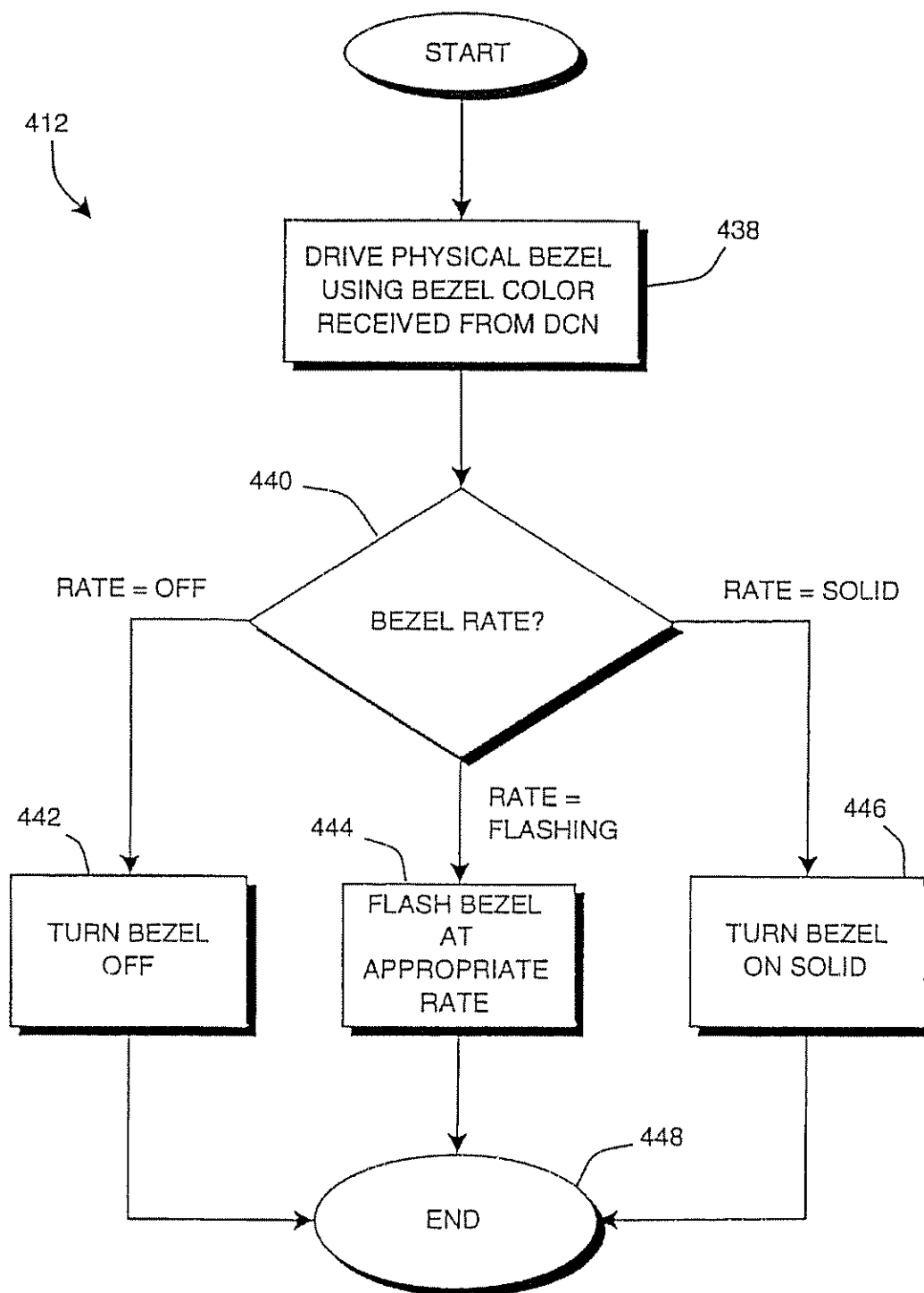


Fig.26

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 27 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

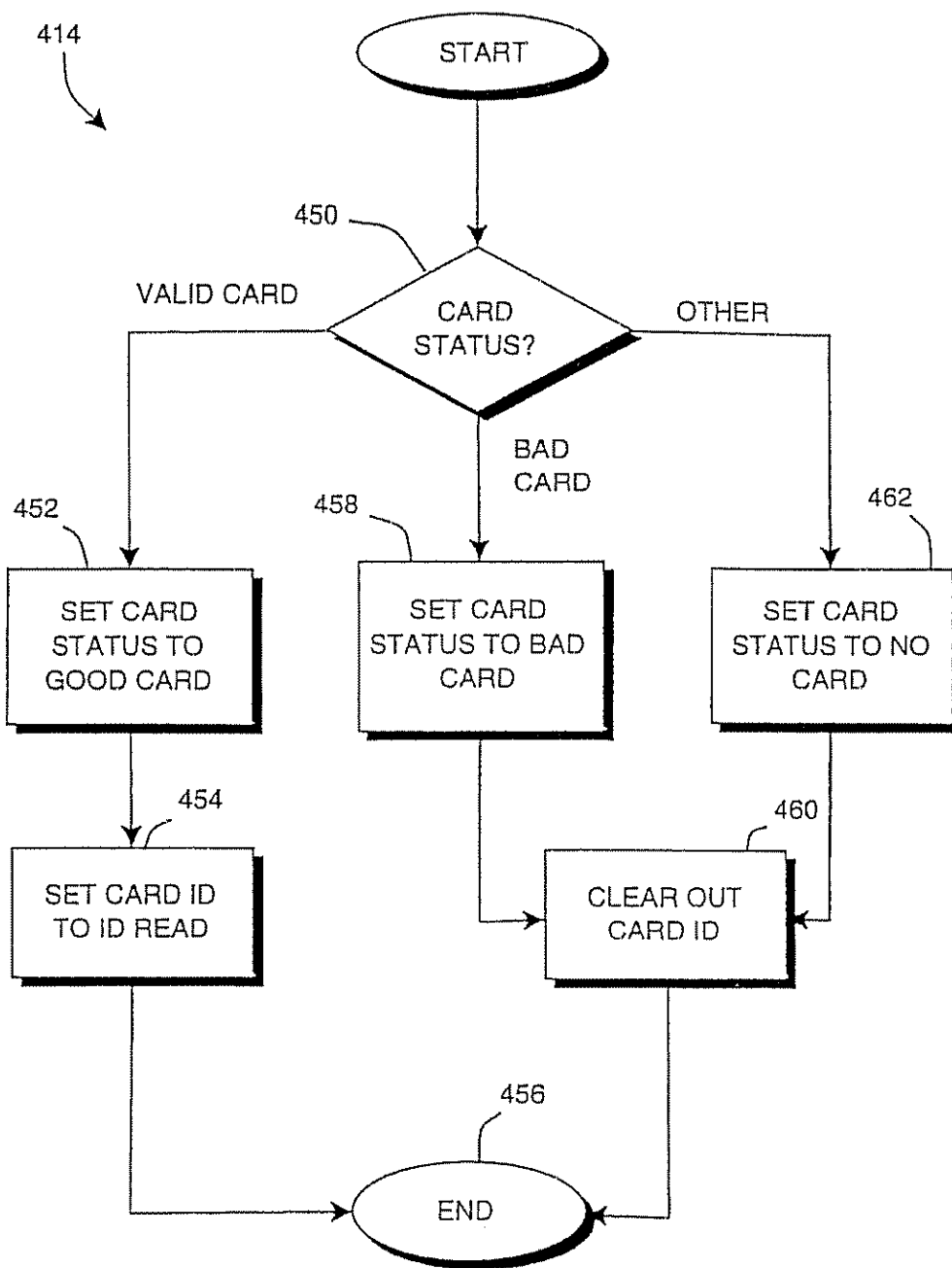


Fig.27

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 28 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

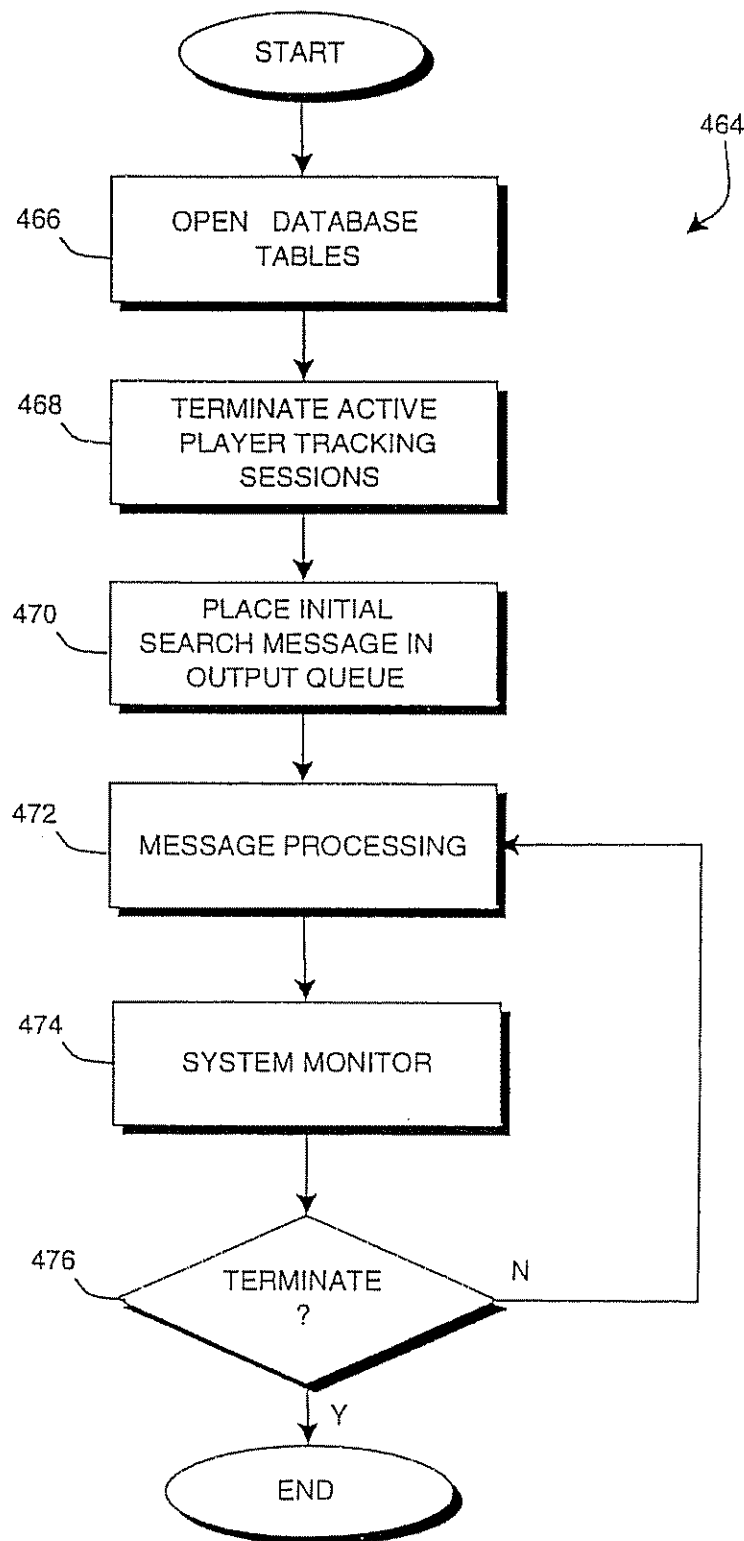


Fig.28

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 29 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

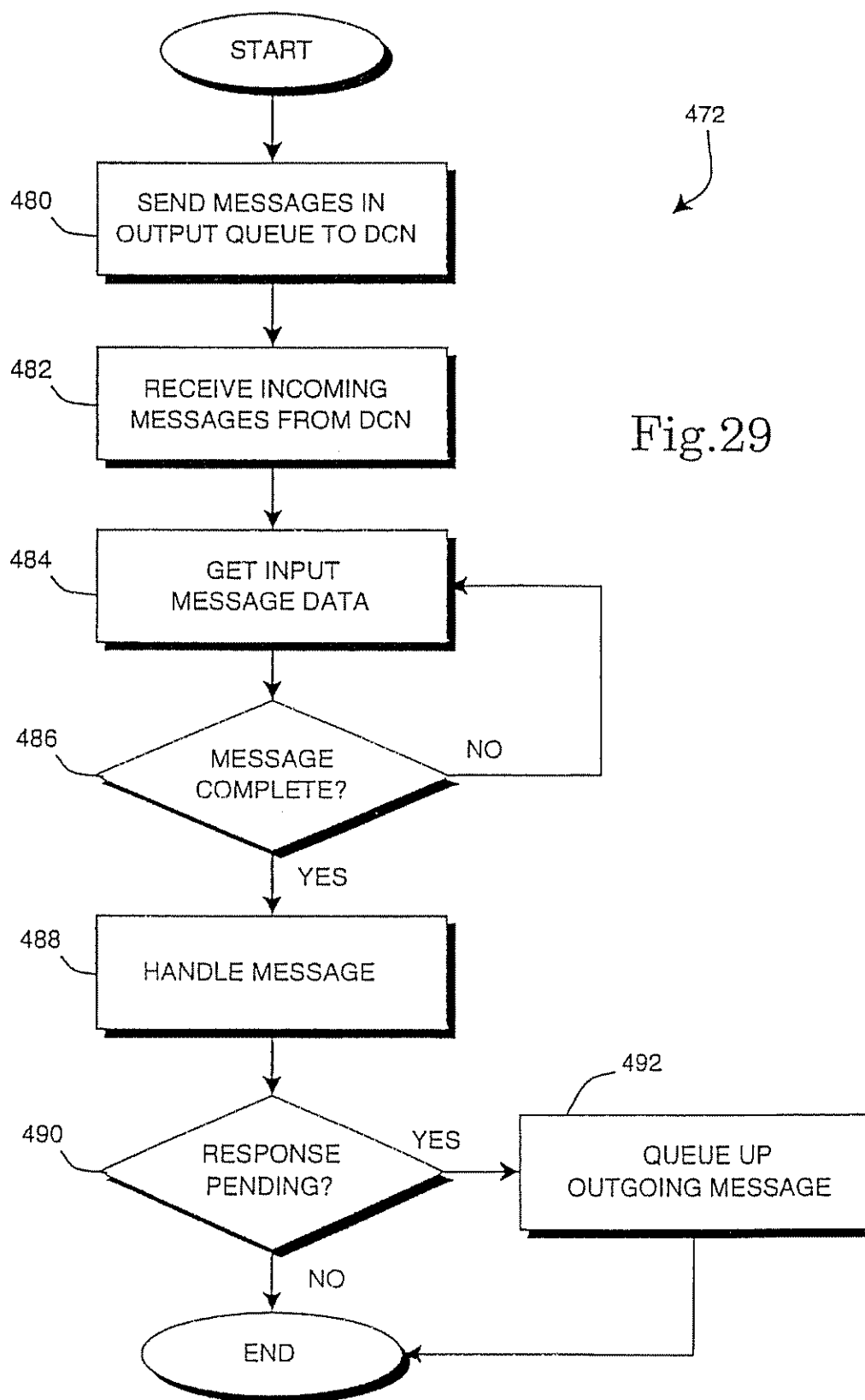
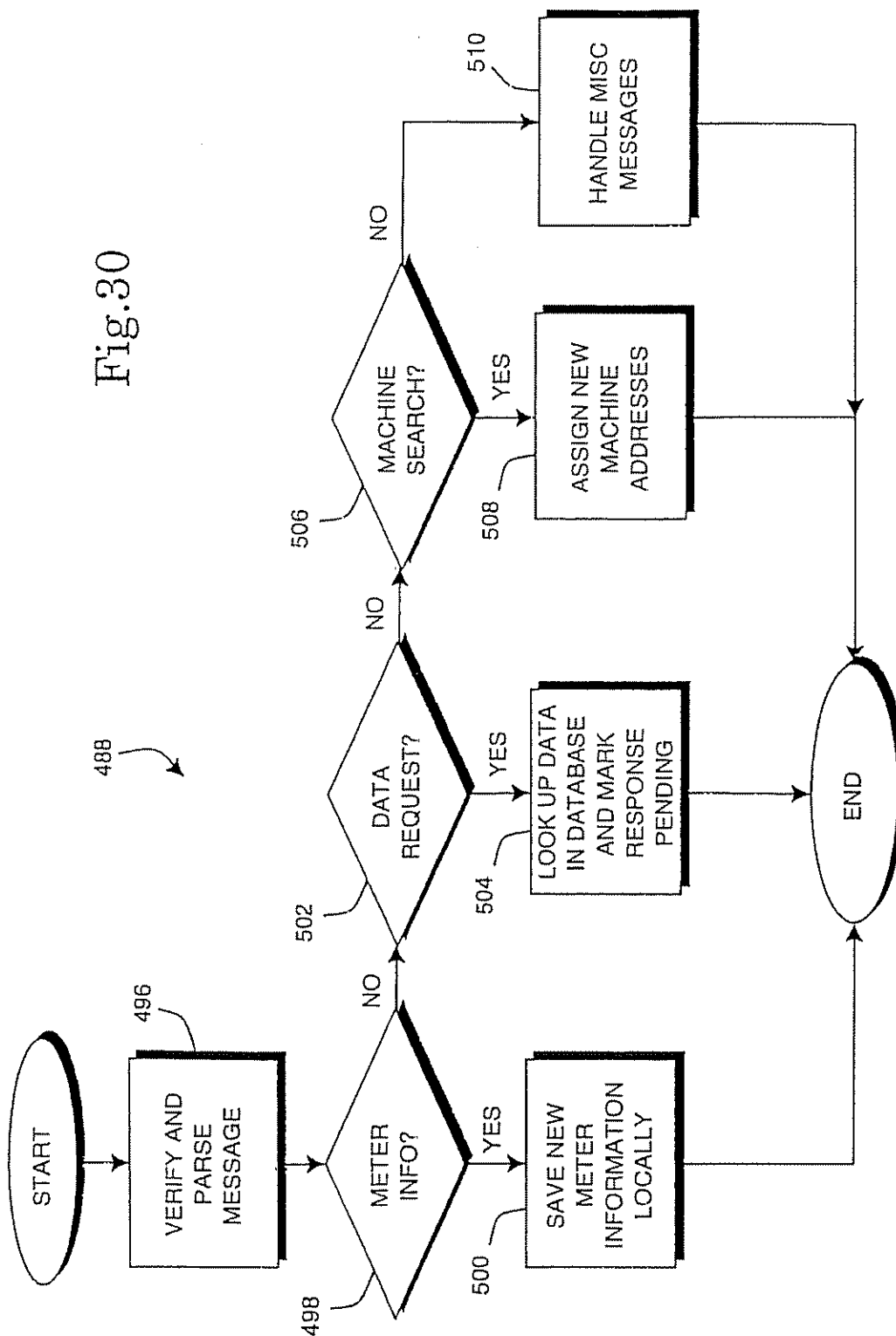


Fig.29

Fig. 30



U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 31 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

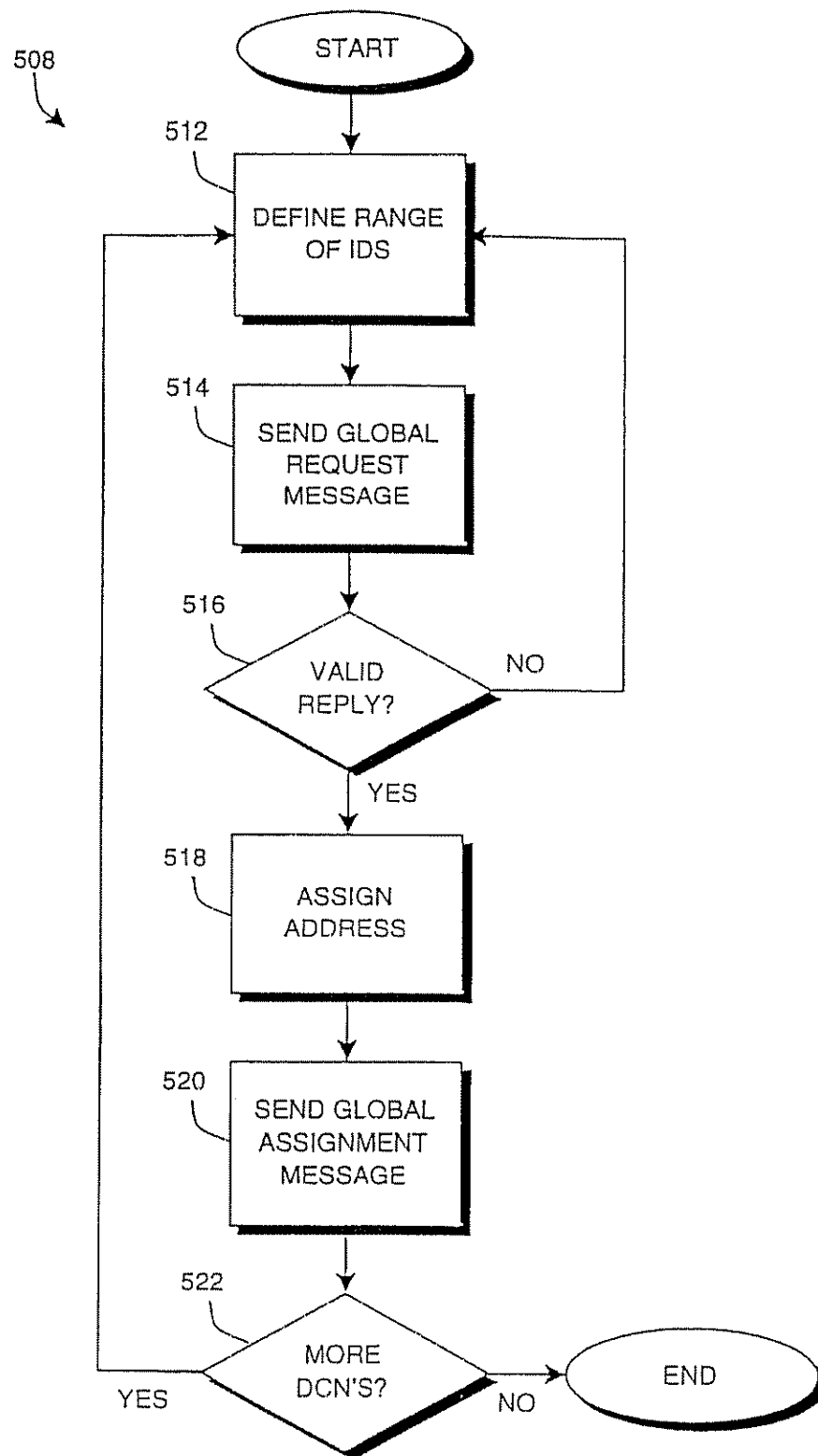


Fig.31

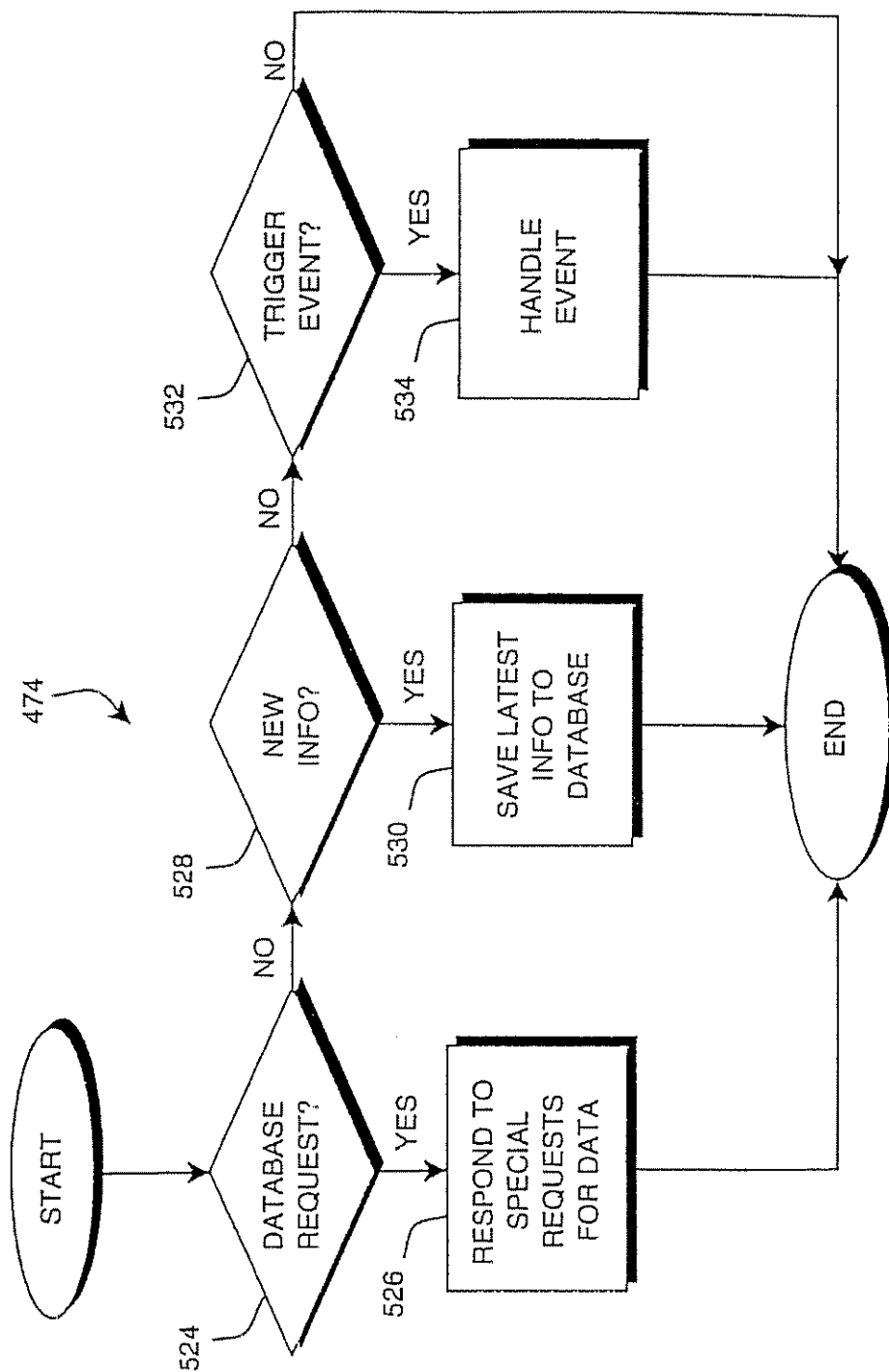


Fig.32

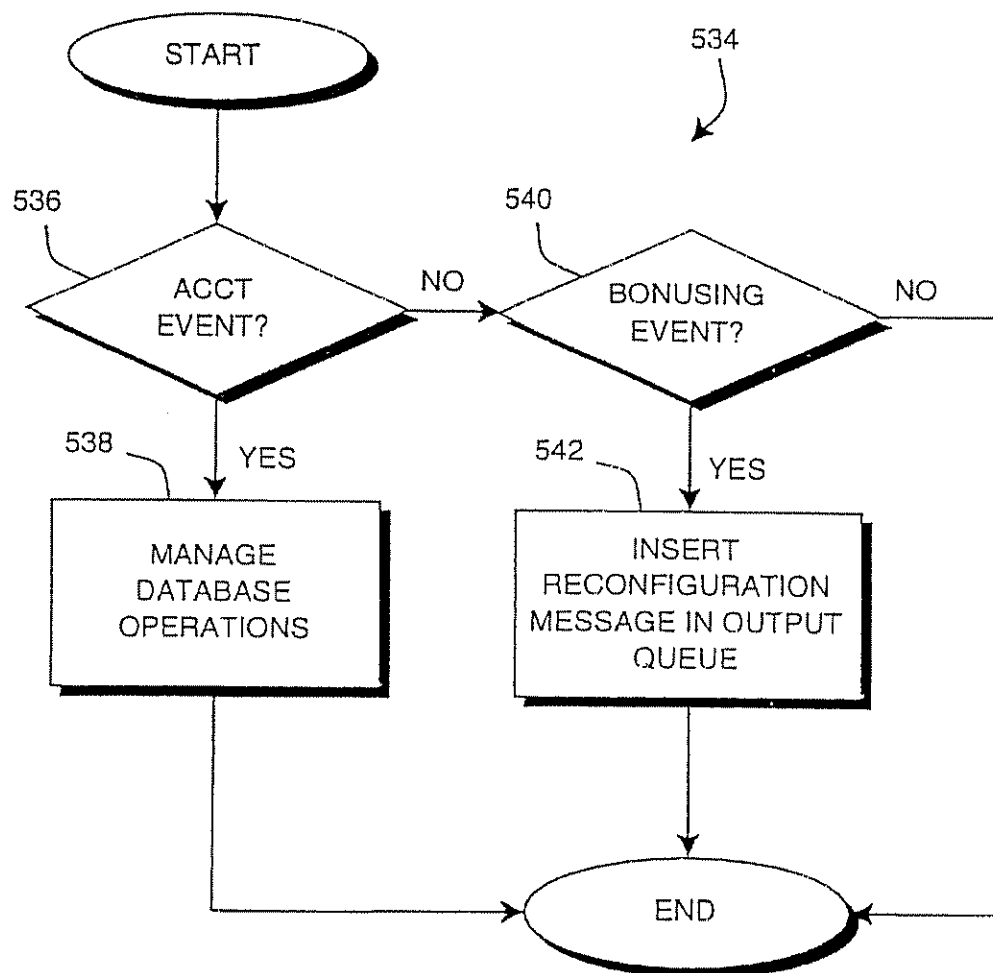


Fig.33

U.S. Patent

Aug. 13, 2002

Sheet 34 of 34

US 6,431,983 B2

